



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Five Bars Host Music Festival

By Barry Lank

The valley will be jammin' on Saturday, Nov. 11. That's the day the Noe Valley Music Festival rocks residents for the 11th year in a row.

Latin rock bands, blues artists, jazz musicians, rhythm and blues combos — and even one band with an emergency room doctor for a drummer — will perform from 2 to 8 p.m. at five neighborhood hot spots: two bars and a restaurant along the 24th Street strip, a Church Street pub, and a tavern at the corner of Valencia and 26th streets.

"People can just walk up and down the street and listen," said festival co-organizer Roy Derrick, or they can pay a \$3 donation at the door of each bar to enjoy the music inside. Better yet, they can buy an \$11 tee shirt, which doubles as an all-day pass to the festival.

Proceeds will benefit two senior centers: Centro Latino de San Francisco, located at 1656 15th St., and the Noe Valley Senior Center, which meets at the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St.

Police Set up A Hair Club For Katrina

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

When San Francisco Police Officer Yulanda Williams spotted Katrina Alexander, a sixth-grader at James Lick School, crying in a stairwell at lunch time while her classmates played in the schoolyard, Williams was reminded of painful memories from her own school years.

"I thought of myself in middle school," she says. "I would cry because kids taunted me and teased me because I suffered from eczema. For years, the skin on my face looked like snakeskin. I didn't know what was wrong with Katrina, but I ran over immediately to comfort her and see if I could correct the problem."

Eleven-year-old Katrina told Williams that two girls from her class had been teasing her and calling her "wighead."

"I saw she was wearing a wig, but I didn't want to ask any questions about why because she was so upset," recalls Williams, a member of the Police Department's school law enforcement program for the past three and a half years.

Katrina then said that one of the girls had tried to pull the wig off her head.

The police officer consoled Katrina. "Then I yelled at the two girls and cried with Katrina, and there was such anger in my voice that the other two girls began crying too," says Williams.

Next she took Katrina to the school office and spoke to Principal Joan Heppery, who explained to Williams that Katrina suffers from alopecia areata. Currently afflicting about two million Americans,



Where Our Readers Roam

Twenty-sixth Street resident Bill Kuhns needed to get grounded with a copy of the Voice this September, after arriving at Kizhi Island, a remote outpost in northern Russia accessible only by boat. He reports that the national preserve is a treasure trove of old wooden structures, the most impressive of which is the Transfiguration Cathedral, built in 1714 entirely without nails. Now that he has safely returned to Noe soil from his Volga River cruise, he joins a host of other correspondents in showing us the what, where, and when of vacations. See page 13.

This year's festival is also dedicated to the memory of festival co-founder John O'Conner, who died last summer at age 50. O'Conner had helped organize the Noe Valley event for the past 11 years,

and had produced outdoor concerts as well.

According to Derrick, who launched the music jam in 1984, "people come in

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City Puts a Hold on Posh Bagel Store

By Loren J. Bialik

The Posh Bagel Inc. was expecting to unveil its newest bagel shop on 24th Street Nov. 1. But a City Planning error has left the Santa Clara-based bagel chain steaming, and could delay the store's opening for months.

The Planning Department granted a conditional use permit to Posh on July 7, saying it was free to start renovations at 3933 24th St., the spot previously occupied by Double Rainbow Ice Cream.

But on Oct. 11, when the city realized the variance was limited to a store selling ice cream, it pulled the permit and ordered Posh to stop any further construction.

Gerald Green, a senior planner at the Planning Department, admits the city made a mistake. "But two wrongs don't make a right," he says, "and since the new owners want to sell bagels and not ice

Continued on Page 3



Officer Yulanda Williams (left) and partner Julie Lynch started a fund to pay for a custom-made wig for James Lick student Katrina Alexander.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

alopecia areata is an auto-immune disorder that causes hair loss.

Since she was about 2 years old, Katrina — who lives with her mother, three brothers, and a sister in the Casa de la Raza public housing complex on Bartlett Street — has worn a series of inexpensive, faux-looking wigs.

"After I talked to the principal, I notified Katrina's mom and the parents of the other two girls that they should come to a meeting," says Williams.

"They all showed up within 40 minutes, and we talked about the incident. Once they realized how serious this was, there was lots of empathy from the girls

and their parents, and they apologized to Katrina and her mom."

But for Katrina, this was the last straw in what had been a very difficult first month of middle school. After attending Edison Elementary with the same group of kids for five years, she had been disappointed when most of her friends were assigned to Horace Mann Middle School in the Mission, while she was assigned to James Lick, at Noe and 25th streets in Noe Valley.

"She had to make a whole new set of friends at school," says Sherie Alexander, Katrina's mother.

And then the first week of school start-

ed with two eighth-graders harassing her about her hair.

"They kept asking me, 'Who does your hair?'," remembers Katrina. "And I said, 'My mom's friend does it,' because that's what my mom told me to say."

Interjects Alexander, "I thought that would be the easiest thing for her to tell other kids. If she told them she suffers from alopecia areata, I was afraid that they might get scared of her."

At lunch time, the girls followed Katrina and a friend into the bathroom. "They started talking about me, and then

Continued on Page 5

Ramps Misplaced

a worse location for the and disabled-access plat- east side of Church Street (from Muni's sketches mp and boarding platform gth of the block), but I hat it could be.

to remove a three-foot- dewalk while also elimi- ic lane, that would con- en the turning radius of affic from the six garages e platform. It has been the able-bodied platform o to three inches high, but slight curb can be driven day with no damage to ot recommend standing in wait for the J-car unless rt and supremely athletic. et senior center's objec- a platform on 30th at valid. First, it's the ideal or the 24 and 26 buses. the sake of the elderly and he ramps are being in- only fair that they should convenience.

Hugh Palmerston
30th Street

ization of Noe

ley resident since birth, I ne changes created by the e here. I am sickened and e Valley is on its way to Marina (no offense to s). r chains like Supercuts the health food store on g pushed out so that the aise the rent. And now, ds is being elbowed out, restaurant can move in, operated by someone re-

Up

Finds a Niche in Racks

San Francisco Indepen- newspaper ceased publish- magazine early this year, ide what to do with their e racks." The racks con- opies of the *Independent* mpartment, but the upper had sheltered the real es- now empty.

witch to single racks, *In-* shner Ted Fang, a Noe Val- ontacted *The Noe Valley* ed the use of a number of or free. We accepted. ll continue its normal dis- es, cafes, and public fa- ope you will find it con- up a copy at one of the cations in or around Noe

know how we're doing.

ws Rack Locations

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Chenery in Glen Park

LETTERS 32¢

lated to the owner of the building.

Noe Valley used to be a place where you were free to be yourself, express your ideas without prosecution, and have a warm feeling about living in the area.

Now I am finding it becoming a commercial, conservative, and expensive neighborhood—in more ways than one.

Angela Giannini
25th Street

Chavez Statue in Dolores Park

Editor:

Let's pass the peace pipe on Army Street, and find a solution for everyone. I've lived in San Francisco since 1946 and in Noe Valley since 1973. Ever since the new Cesar Chavez signs were installed, though, I've found myself driving right past the street, because "Army" is in such small lettering. Also, like many residents, I just haven't achieved the mindset that identifies the street as Cesar Chavez Street.



Last Sunday as I was driving south on Dolores Street, the large bell on the east side of Dolores Park caught my eye, and it occurred to me that a statue of Mr. Chavez just down a bit from the bell, facing toward the Mission District and the valley where he worked so hard for positive changes in working conditions and human rights, would be a good idea. The area could be planted with flowers, and perhaps benches could be installed on either side of the statue. Donations of money, labor, plants, and maintenance could defray the expense, so it would cost the city nothing.

The statue would be something truly beautiful to honor this good man — instead of something controversial — and this issue could be resolved in a dignified and peaceful way. I think Mr. Chavez would be pleased, and Army Street could still be Army Street.

Kim Mercuri Bullis
Clipper Street

Cost of Reverting to Army

Editor:

My name is Jesse, I'm in the sixth grade at St. Philip's School. It seems that some people in Noe Valley believe that I'm being used by the Keep Cesar Chavez Street campaign. I'm not being used. My face and my words are out there because I chose for them to be. Every word I write comes from my heart. I've been speaking about Cesar Chavez since the first Board of Supervisors meeting on June 2, 1994. I've been working hard going to meetings and handing out flyers. Not only am I on the Keep Cesar Chavez Street campaign, I also work for the UFW. There are so many un-truths that the Save Army Street Committee are saying. I'd like to get the real truth out there.

Truth: The cost of the Cesar Chavez street signs that have been put up were free of cost to the taxpayers. It was paid by the city's maintenance program.

Truth: If Save Army Street were to win, the cost would be high. New illuminated street signs would have to be made. The Cesar Chavez signs are illuminated; that's why the city covered the cost. The street signs had to be changed anyway. The city did it for free once. They will not be free next time.

Truth: Some people from the Save Army Street committee are prejudiced, and tried to turn this into a race issue. Since the first board meeting I have been subjected to many racist remarks. Some remarks I'll

never forget. They hurt, and I don't think anyone should talk to a child like that.

This is not an issue of race. It's an issue of honor. Please help us honor Cesar Chavez in San Francisco. Vote no on O. Jesse Arreguin

Achtenberg Has Ethics

Editor:

When Willie Brown is criticized for accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars from numerous special interests, he responds that all the money he receives is used to support Democratic candidates and none has been used for his own personal benefit. Yet an analysis of Brown's Assembly campaign fund shows that he has spent contributions on such things as \$3,000 Armani tuxedos, expensive restaurants and hotels, and paying rent for office space at his law office address.

When Brown is criticized for accepting more money from the tobacco industry than any other politician in the country, he responds that he has never voted in favor of tobacco interests. The facts, however, are to the contrary.

When Brown is challenged for conflict of interest from collecting legal fees from clients with business before the Assembly, he responds that his record has been examined under a microscope, and no one has ever found that he has done anything illegal. While that may be true, not being guilty of a crime is hardly an ethical standard of which anyone—much less a self-styled progressive—should be proud.

Although walking close to the line may be the way the game is played in the Assembly, San Franciscans deserve a mayor who will adhere to high ethical standards and commit to serving the public interest, not special interests. Having spent 30 years in the Assembly, it is not clear that Willie Brown would be able to change his style to meet those standards; from the responses he has given to date, it does not seem as if he even wants to.

Roberta Achtenberg recently issued an issue paper on ethics. I urge everyone who wants a mayor who will effectively serve the public interest to read it and to support her candidacy.

Ruth N. Borenstein
24th Street



Willie Brown — Man of Action

Editor:

Because I have Willie Brown posters up at my store, I am often asked why I support Brown for mayor. After listening to all the candidates and studying their records, I came to the conclusion that Willie Brown is a man of action and therefore the best candidate.

I had always admired his gutsiness in Sacramento, but it wasn't until he announced he'd run for mayor that I began to study his record. It really is quite impressive. He is very progressive, yet fully understands the need to involve business and government with the people. For over 30 years he has passed or pushed legislation that supports human and civil rights for the underprivileged, that provides for family health services, that secures gay and lesbian rights, and that protects and provides for those infected with HIV/AIDS. These are some of the issues that are important to me.

As a small business owner, I see the rapid decay of city services and agencies on an almost daily basis. I think this is because San Franciscans haven't had a good progressive leader since George Moscone. (It's only fitting that Gina Moscone



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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, artwork, and manuscripts—including news stories, essays, poetry, and fiction—particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. However, all such items must include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters to the editor will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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is backing Willie Brown for mayor.)

I see him as the only candidate who will be able to stand up to and implement changes to Muni and the Police Department, the two most glaring examples of leadership vacuum. I also feel he will stay in office until the job of overhauling our city government is done.

I have heard the complaints about his lifestyle, and it seems almost racist that a black man who dresses and speaks well should be called flashy, but it is unbelievable that some San Franciscans would turn away from the best candidate because he had good taste. I look forward to the day when Willie Brown will stand up to the bigoted, right-wing Republican leaders and make San Francisco the leader of a progressive wave that will sweep the country.

Tom Maravilla
MikeyTom Market
Church Street

Still a Fan of Muni

Editor:

In the September 1995 issue of *The Noe Valley Voice*, several of our splendid mayoral candidates were quoted trashing Muni and making reference to the good old days of 20 years ago. I didn't live in San Francisco 20 years ago, but I did move here the summer of 1976, 19 years ago, and I well remember the state of Muni at that time. This, for the benefit of our political friends, was back in the days before buses knelt and articulated, and back before the Muni Metro opened.

Back in 1976 the old green torpedo-shaped streetcars (with windows that opened only a crack for rider safety during BART construction a few years before) swarmed Market Street, frequently interacting physically with cars and

Continued on Next Page

A Dozen On Tap Music

Continued

from other coun- friend of mine sa- cation around th-

Last year, bec- borhood business- ership, the festi- Co-producer R- ed out, however- about \$1,000 for-

This year the l- is much larger, a fundraiser will senior centers.

Noe's Bar at t- 24th Street will- the Banditos, th- and blues band, ing Link.

Jack's Taps a- lineup that inclu- band; the Latin- Tony Stone and- band Jimmy and-

The Rover's- will feature the- group the Swin- er groups, to be-

Tien Fu Resta- Bell Market wi- combos, and the- Valencia St. wi- ers Members of-

So far, festi- Guitar Center, S- and Miller Gold- pany supplying- sor is Billy T's- pany, which is-

"We've bro- this year by get- western groups- and blues," said- ber of the festi-

Vallejo play- Weasels, whic- homegrown gr- "Guitarist Jir-

Coast Video on- ing's from Noe- mer, and I have- for a long time.

LET

Continued

pedestrians, wh- that streetcars- ones now going- F-line, the stre- frequently brok-

sitting in the m- nel for many ex-

My favorite- ing the late-1- years. A streetc- ing during rush- or open his door-

Street to the T- town. The trap- shouted for hel- of open window-

intended stops. Also in 1976, strained up the Street hills, oft-

bodied riders o- bus at the botto- load and reboa-

bus hadn't bro- between. This s- tinued until the- adero lines wer-

I've always

A Dozen Bands On Tap for Music Festival

Continued from Page 1

from other counties for the festival. A friend of mine says he's planning his vacation around this."

Last year, because a number of neighborhood businesses were changing ownership, the festival ran in only two bars. Co-producer Raymond Van Tassel pointed out, however, that the event still made about \$1,000 for the senior centers.

This year the list of bands and sponsors is much larger, and Van Tassel hopes the fundraiser will be a major boon to the senior centers.

Noe's Bar at the corner of Church and 24th Street will host the Latin rock band the Banditos, the Palm Garden rhythm and blues band, and the rock band Missing Link.

Jack's Taps at Church and 25th has a lineup that includes the Rattle Cans blues band; the Latin, rock, and blues combo Tony Stone and Luna; and the folk-rock band Jimmy and the Weasels.

The Rover's Inn on 24th near Castro will feature the country-western and rock group the Swingin' Doors, plus two other groups, to be announced.

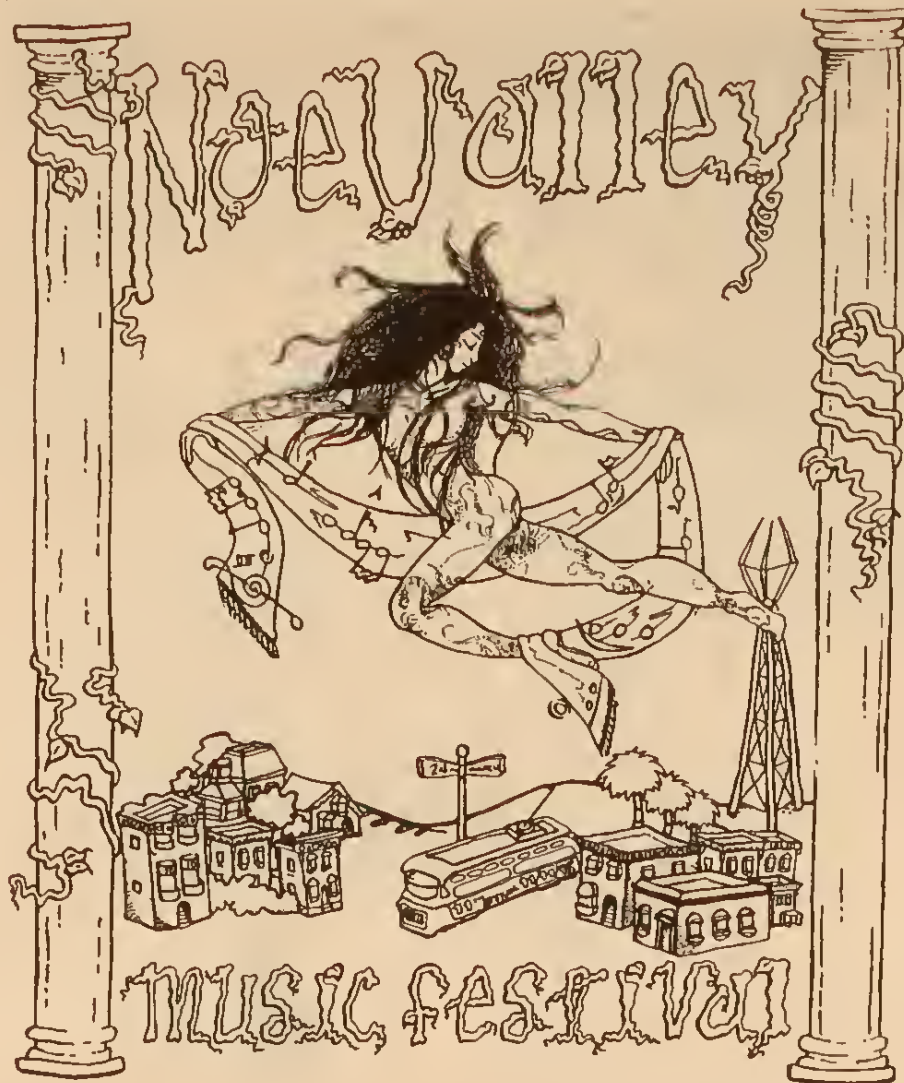
Tien Fu Restaurant on 24th across from Bell Market will host a number of jazz combos, and the Schooner Tavern at 1498 Valencia St. will showcase the Latin rockers Members of Malo.

So far, festival sponsors include the Guitar Center, Sky Vodka, Jägermeister, and Miller Golden Brands, the beer company supplying the banners. Another sponsor is Billy T's silkscreen printing company, which is producing the tee shirts.

"We've broadened our musical base this year by getting jazz and country and western groups—as well as Latin, rock, and blues," said Gus Vallejo, another member of the festival's organizing committee.

Vallejo plays with Jimmy and the Weasels, which is perhaps the most homegrown group in the festival.

"Guitarist Jimmy [Leal] works at West Coast Video on 24th Street, Terry Dowling's from Noe's bar, and Les, the drummer, and I have both lived in Noe Valley for a long time," Vallejo said. "The festi-



SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



This logo, designed by artists Asha and Larry Nagen, adorns the tee shirts that will serve as an all-day pass to the Noe Valley Music Festival on Saturday, Nov. 11.

val always turns out to be a great party for everyone."

One of the jazz bands scheduled for Tien Fu was still conjuring up a name at press time. "Raymond [Van Tassel] talked about using the name the Noe Valley All-Stars," said the band's drummer, Dr. Marc Snyder, who works by day as chief medical director at St. Luke's Hospital's emergency room. Most of the other members of the band are professional musicians, he added.

"It's pretty much a jam session that's been going on in my basement for the 15 years I've been living in Noe Valley," Snyder said. The group has no leaders, and he's not even sure who will be play-

ing at Tien Fu on Nov. 11. "It's at least a quartet, maybe more."

Also getting in on the act is the Planters Nursery flower shop on 24th near Church, which will sell festival tee shirts prior to the event. The shop plans to make a musical contribution the day of the party, by playing prerecorded classical music on the store's patio.

Tee shirts will also be available at West Coast Video at Church and 24th. For more information about the festival, call Raymond Van Tassel at 221-1836. Or if you'd like to volunteer Nov. 11, contact Betsy Dolge at Centro Latino, 861-8758. □

Posh Bagel Gets Shabby Treatment From City Hall

Continued from Page 1

cream, they have to apply for a new conditional use permit."

Meanwhile, Posh president Jeffrey Ottovaggio is aggravated, to say the least. "We were six weeks into construction [when the city issued the stop-work order]. Before we signed the lease, we were assured we had all the permits." He naturally doesn't think his company should take the heat for the city's negligence, especially since he's already expended lots of dough on the new Posh outlet.

However, Ottovaggio said, he'll go ahead and ask the Planning Commission for a new permit.

As for the bagel store's chances, Green said, "Personally, I don't see a real problem, since it's one restaurant substituting for another. But there are some people who oppose granting the permit, including a competitor bagel shop, and neighbors who are concerned about noise."

The hearing on whether to grant The Posh Bagel its permit will be held Nov. 16 in Room 428 at 401 Van Ness Ave. It's scheduled to start at 1:30 p.m.

There are other items on the calendar, so you might want to bring something to nosh. A bagel, perhaps? □

Herb's Eviction Pushed to Back Burner

By Loren J. Bialik

In September it looked as if war was going to break out between Sam Kawas, 20-year owner of Herb's Fine Foods at 3991 24th St., and his landlords, Michael and Mary McFadden.

Kawas had received a 30-day eviction notice from the McFaddens, and was expecting to close his restaurant on Labor Day. The *Voice* had also learned that one of the McFaddens' sons was interested in claiming the storefront in order to run his own cafe.

However, Herb's loyal patrons and employees protested so loudly that Kawas put up a sign saying, "Herb's Will Be Open Till We're Carried Out!" The lunch counter continued to serve its bacon and eggs and toast in defiance of the order.

But by mid-September the sign had come down and an apparent ceasefire had been reached.

Now both sides are staying mum as to any further negotiations. So for the time being, Herb's remains a fixture on the strip. And all is quiet on the Western omelette front. □

LETTERS

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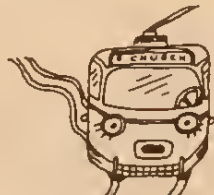
pedestrians, who never seemed to notice that streetcars couldn't swerve. Like the ones now going back into service on the F-line, the streetcars were very old and frequently broke down. I distinctly recall sitting in the middle of Twin Peaks Tunnel for many extended periods of time.

My favorite Muni story occurred during the late-1970s, pre-Muni Metro years. A streetcar driver lost it one morning during rush hour, and wouldn't stop or open his doors all the way from Church Street to the Transbay Terminal downtown. The trapped and panicked riders shouted for help through that inch or so of open window, as they rushed past their intended stops.

Also in 1976, motor coaches roared and strained up the Sacramento and Castro Street hills, often accompanied by able-bodied riders on foot who would exit the bus at the bottom of the hill to reduce its load and reboard at the summit—if the bus hadn't broken down somewhere in between. This absurd state of affairs continued until the 1-California and 24-Divisadero lines were electrified in the 1980s.

I've always assumed that Muni was

rife with political favoritism, graft, and corruption. At least I hope that is the case, as the alternative is too depressing to contemplate. But I can't say that I've noticed the quality of Muni drivers falling over the years. Like Giants pitching, the overall quality of drivers seems to stay in the same mediocre range. Some are excellent, while others are too rude to be employed even by the post office. But most of the drivers do the best they can at a very difficult job.



On the other hand, I have noticed that the riders on the buses and the drivers of the cars which Muni drivers have to deal with every day have gotten much worse.

Muni could, obviously, be better, but it is still a good transit system, and in many respects it is better than it was 19 years ago. I've never owned a car here, and while I've moved within San Francisco several times to minimize my dependence on public transit, Muni has always served me well.

Ted Jones
San Francisco

Out-Front Election Predictions

Editor:

From my Douglass Street "cave" (at 18th Street), I respectfully submit a few predictions on the Nov. 7 election.

First, with reference to Gloria Adams' prescient letter in the October *Voice*, Prop. O will pass overwhelmingly, if for no other reason than to send the current Board of Supervisors a stinging rebuke for their "effrontery and arrogance" in changing the name of Army Street without consulting their (collective) boss, we the people! Never since "coming out" in 1952 have I been other than proud of being gay; however, supervisors Susan Leal and Tom Ammiano, the orchestrators of the Army-to-Chavez travesty, make me "wince and mince" with shame.

Further, it now appears that Mayor Jordan just might best all of his major opponents—as becomes any candidate who is the most qualified and whose record as an incumbent merits an unqualified vote of confidence. If, however, a December runoff becomes necessary, Frank will readily overcome the challenge of not Willie Brown, but former HUD official Roberta Achtenberg, who, by the way, has run a dignified campaign.

For district attorney, Bill Fazio is clearly the candidate "of and for" the people who would return competency, honesty,

and integrity to an office which has become a civic disgrace. However, with Terence Hallinan acting as spoiler, be not surprised if Arlo Smith wins (oh shame!).

Lastly, although my lover and I will be voting for Art Conger for sheriff, we fear that Mike Hennessey's "touchie-feelie" approach to law enforcement will prevail over both common sense and law and order, and this city's p.c. crowd will have their only winner.

In closing, I must add that your newspaper is terrific; wish we had something like it here on the Eureka Valley side of the hill.

Thomas M. Edwards
Douglass Street

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Katrina's Hair Club Keeps Growing

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they pulled my backpack from my back and broke it," continues Katrina.

"I think these girls passed it on to the girls in her class, who teased her the second time," says Alexander.

Worried about her daughter's plummeting self-esteem, Alexander called the school district to request that they transfer Katrina, an A student, to another school. But both Hepperly and Williams intervened, encouraging Katrina to stay at James Lick.

"I would have hated to have Katrina leave," says Principal Hepperly. "She would just have to start all over at another school and possibly be faced with the same kind of situation again."

Adds Williams, "I begged Katrina to show up the following day. I told her, 'Don't be afraid. The girls learned their lesson.' I told her, 'You're my adopted daughter, and people are going to know to leave you alone unless they have something nice to say. Officer Williams will take care of this. Don't worry. We'll get you a good wig so this won't happen again.'"

After promising Katrina that she would replace the braided wig her mother had purchased for \$50, Williams was dismayed to discover that a new, custom-made wig carried a \$3,500 price tag.

"Little did I know that I'd really put my foot in my mouth," Williams laughs. "But then I thought about me in middle school and I said, 'No, this is not going to happen again. I'm going to be able to do something this time.'"

She talked with Timothy Hettrich, police captain at Potrero Station (the police district Williams works out of). Hettrich assisted Williams and her partner, Julie Lynch, in setting up a trust fund for Katrina through the Bank of America. He also notified *The San Francisco Examiner* about the fundraising effort. The newspaper published a story about Katrina on Oct. 2.

Williams, meanwhile, wrote a letter to Rick Chase, a popular deejay at KMEL-Radio, who happens to be a close friend of Williams' former partner.

"Rick was really hurt that this happened to Katrina, and he invited me on the show to talk about it," says Williams.

She also spoke to Greg Taylor, the owner of Reallusions, a custom wig store in Millbrae that specializes in "vacuum-fit" wigs designed particularly for sufferers of alopecia areata. He agreed to provide a wig for Katrina at cost—\$1,500.

"We wanted to make the effort as police officers to try to do something right and take people's minds off all the wrongs they'd been hearing about lately," says Williams. "People have a sense of us as robotic, omery enforcers of the law, I felt this was an opportunity to display our sensitivity, to bridge the gap between civilians and the police and to show the positive aspects of law enforcement."

Within two days of the *Examiner* article and KMEL broadcast, Williams received enough donations to buy Katrina the wig. Within two weeks, people from throughout California and from as far away as Great Britain had sent in donations totalling more than \$5,600. Sy Sperling, owner of the Hair Club for Men, even donated an additional custom-made wig free of charge.

Williams' fellow officers at Potrero Station chipped in \$600, and the middle school bus driver from James Lick, along with other drivers employed by the Laidlaw Bus Co., donated \$120. Even Williams' 13-year-old daughter, Jimmika

Johnson, an eighth-grader at Everett Middle School, got into the act.

"She and some of the kids in the sports program at Everett just emptied their pockets and gave what they had to the fund, about \$20," says Williams. "They let Katrina know they were with her and were sensitive enough to take up a collection for a student at another school."

With the abundance of funds, Williams will not only be able to pay for Katrina's wig from Reallusions and leave a little extra in the trust fund to cover upkeep costs, but will also be able to purchase a wig for another needy child. She is working with the National Alopecia Areata Foundation, located in San Rafael, to find a suitable beneficiary.

"We're hoping that it will be a girl and someone around Katrina's age," says Williams. "I can't believe we met our goal for Katrina so quickly. I can't thank everyone enough for the money and for the words of encouragement for Katrina."

Katrina's wigs—a short bob from the Hair Club and a longer style from Reallusions—will be ready in time for Christmas. Because the Reallusions wig comes with a unique vacuum cap, people will no longer be able to pull it off her head, and Katrina will be able to wear it while swimming and playing sports.

"It's just incredible that they can duplicate a natural head of hair," notes Williams, who accompanied Katrina and her mother to the fitting in early October. "It's the most interesting thing I've ever seen. You part the hair and it looks like a regular scalp, and they can match the hair in the wig to the color of Katrina's eyebrows and eyelashes."

"I think this is really going to help Katrina," adds Williams. "She's such a shy, quiet young lady, and she deals with what's provided for her. She's never asked for a better wig, but she's had such low self-esteem because of her condition and being so worried about whether kids would question her about her hair."

After the fitting, Katrina stopped by Potrero Station to bring a thank-you card to the officers, as well as a couple of small gifts for Williams and her partner Lynch.

"I think Officer Williams is very nice," says Katrina.

Katrina has also saved all the cards and letters she's received. "One person sent me a whole bunch of stickers," she says. But an extra-special gift for her is the small pop-up book of poetry she received from a woman who read the *Examiner* story. Reading, after all, is Katrina's favorite subject in school.

Another of her treasured cards has a handwritten message: "Please don't let those unhappy girls make you feel like you're a bad person. You're not a bad person, but what they did was bad. The good that has come out of it is you have new friends, Yulanda Williams for one, and people like me who care very much what happens to you. Keep doing well in school because with education you can fly high as an eagle."

The card is signed "Someone who cares." □

Contributions can still be sent to the Katrina Alexander Trust Fund, c/o Officers Yulanda Williams or Julie Lynch, San Francisco Police Department, Potrero Station, 2300 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94107.

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Dave Trumbule Made His Mark

A friendly smiling face and cheerful whistle are gone. Dave Trumbule, a Noe Valley figure for the past eight years, died on Saturday, Sept. 23, 1995.

Dave had many friends and acquaintances around the 24th and Castro area where he could frequently be found—always ready with a friendly hello, a happy grin, and a joke. Although his presence will be sorely missed, his memory will live on in the many renovation projects he completed during his time with us.

You can see his careful perfectionist's touch on both the inside and outside of numerous buildings in Noe Valley and other neighborhoods in San Francisco. He painted the exterior of Noe Valley Psychotherapy Associates at 4112 24th St., and worked on the renovation and "pigeonproofing" of the building across the street that houses Rory's Ice Cream.

Dave was a master painter and craftsman—an artist who cared deeply and put his heart into renovating and repairing the buildings he loved.

As one of his good buddies said, "They must have a big project going on upstairs and need his help!" Goodbye, Dave, we'll miss you.

—Bonita Sebastian



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Grocery Stores Bag up Thanksgiving To Go

By Beverly Sharp

Too tired to cook on Thanksgiving? Want to laze around instead of slaving over food preparation? If so, you can give thanks to our local grocery stores, several of which are offering Thanksgiving dinners "to go."

Bell Markets' deli supervisor, Joe Shembry, says he is excited to once again offer "handsomely boxed traditional Thanksgiving dinners which customers can be proud of" at the chain's 24th Street store.

Bell's turkey dinner includes hutterball turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry relish, green bean casserole, dinner rolls, and choice of apple or pumpkin pie. It comes in two sizes: a 10- to 12-pound turkey, with side dishes to serve 6 to 8 people (\$34.97), or a 12- to 14-pound turkey dinner serving 8 to 10 (\$39.97).

If you're after even meatier fare, Bell is also offering prime rib and ham dinners. The boneless, 4-pound prime rib dinner serves 6 to 8, and comes with the same mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, rolls, and pie supplied with the turkey dinner, but features a yam and apple casserole instead of cranberries and stuffing.

The 7- to 8-pound spiral ham dinner also serves 6 to 8, and includes mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, yam and apple casserole, a choice of potato or macaroni salad, and rolls and pie. Both the prime rib and ham dinners sell for \$39.97.

"Outside vendors provide these dinners, so nothing has to be repackaged, thus

assuring quality and sanitation," said Shembry.

To place your order call 648-0876, or drop by Bell Market at 3950 24th St. The store will be open on Thanksgiving until 4 p.m., but you can pick up your dinner—which is precooked, frozen, and comes with instructions—as much as a week in advance. Or Bell can thaw the dinner for you, depending upon when you pick it up.

Both Safeways in the Noe Valley vicinity—the Diamond Heights Safeway on Diamond Heights Boulevard and the Mission Safeway at Mission and 30th streets—will offer an alternative to all-out cooking on Thanksgiving Day.

Safeway Does Dinner Too

Safeway's turkey dinner, serving 6 to 8, comes with an 8- to 10-pound turkey, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, and a pumpkin pie. It sells for \$34.99.

Spiral ham and prime rib dinners, for 8 to 10 people, come with mashed potatoes, gravy, corn casserole, rolls, and apple pie. They sell for \$39.98.

"The turkeys are wrapped in their own juices, double-sealed, and vacuum-packed so they'll last 20 to 30 days, refrigerated," said Mission Safeway deli manager Mercedes Tomka. "However, once opened, they must be eaten right away. Safeway will thaw the dinners for you, and full reheating instructions are provided."

Diamond Heights deli manager Tom Heally wants to remind people that "availability is limited, so be sure to order early." Last year, he adds, the Diamond Heights Safeway stopped taking orders on Nov. 23.

Call 824-0646 to place your order through Diamond Heights, or 826-2866 to reach the Mission Safeway.

Everything But the Turkey

If you plan to cook your own bird but don't want to do anything else, one place

to check out is Auntie Pasta, the Italian/Mediterranean takeout at 741 Diamond St. near 24th.

According to manager and chef Joanie Basso Ginsberg, Auntie Pasta will be preparing the "perfect side dishes for Thanksgiving," including homemade turkey gravy, wild rice and cranberry stuffing, bread stuffing, cranberry sauce, apricot chutney, puréed sweet potatoes, garlic mashed potatoes, roasted squash soup, white beans and chard, and mushroom-almond paté.

"We also have a lot of low-fat stuff to go, even a low-fat version of the traditional Jewish noodle kugel," Ginsberg adds, "plus all kinds of great dips and sauces and salads for the holidays."

Auntie Pasta will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. the day before Thanksgiving. To order in quantity, call the store 48 hours in advance: 282-0738.

Yes, it's never too late to learn how to cook by phone. (P.S.: Don't forget to grab Bell Markets' or Safeway's November coupon books, which offer additional savings on Thanksgiving dinners.) □



Where to Eat Out On Thanksgiving

For those who'd like to leave the cooking—and the cleanup—to the experts, there are several restaurants open on Thanksgiving Day in Noe Valley.

Noe's Grill, on the corner of 24th and Church, will serve a traditional Thanks-

giving dinner, complete with turkey and stuffing, sweet potatoes, cornbread, and pumpkin pie (\$10.95 adults; \$7.95 kids 12 and under), from 3 in the afternoon until 9 p.m. "We'll be spending the morning preparing," says chef/owner Gaetano Basso, "so come as you are, and enjoy the warmth and flavor of a Thanksgiving meal without all the work." For reservations, call 695-2949.

Herb's Fine Foods, the breakfast and lunch counter on 24th near Noe, will be open from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m., one hour later than usual, on Nov. 23. "We will offer all the wonderful items on Herb's classic menu," says head waitress Shellie Occhipinti. Herb's phone no. is 826-8937.

At the Courtyard Cafe on 24th near Sanchez, patrons can order and pick up a meal to go (282-0344) or dine in style from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. "We have been open every Thanksgiving for the past 14 years, upon people's request," says co-owner Jila Mozafari. "We'll have our oven-roasted turkey, which is very popular in the neighborhood," as well as the usual California and Mediterranean fare.

The 24th Street Cafe, at 24th and Vicksburg, will make you a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, including yams, "either for here or to take out," says cafe owner Joseph Eadeh. "But we'll also be fixing our regular international menu and making a lot of falafel sandwiches, because we have many vegetarians in the neighborhood who don't eat meat."

Eadeh notes that this is the first year the 24th Street Cafe will be open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Thanksgiving. Hours will be 9 a.m. till 6 p.m.; phone 282-1213.

Finally, for those who prefer a little spice in their Thanksgiving diet, Tien Fu Restaurant, serving Mandarin and Szechwan Chinese cuisine at 3945 24th St. (282-9502), will be open all day, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □

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Partial List

Parking Fee Rollback a Prickly Proposition

By Steve Steinberg

How many times have you been unable to park on 24th Street—or any city street for that matter—because you didn't have a quarter for the parking meter?

And you probably know what it's like to stand in a long line down at the Hall of Justice to protest a parking ticket, only to lose anyway and have to fork over \$25 because you were two minutes late getting back to your car.

Well, a lot of angry and frustrated San Francisco motorists will get the chance to tell the city "enough is enough" by passing Proposition H, the parking fees rollback measure on the Nov. 7 ballot.

But in sticking it to the city, drivers also need to consider whether the dollars they'll save through Prop. H are worth the millions of dollars the city stands to lose if the measure passes.

Proposition H offers relief to drivers by lowering parking fines to their 1988 levels and keeping them there for three years. A streetsweeping ticket, for example, would be reduced from \$25 to \$10.

The measure also mandates that parking meters would again accept nickels and dimes and not just quarters. (Over the past three years, the city has shifted to the quarters-only variety.)

Furthermore, as a cost-saving move, Prop. H would abolish the Department of Parking and Traffic, consigning that bureau's functions to the Police Department.

The measure also makes certain personnel changes, including doubling the number of parking control officers on the city payroll. However, only half of the "meter-minders" would be writing tickets; the rest would be performing other jobs, such as directing traffic. Theoretically, this would free up more police officers to concentrate on crime.

Finally, Prop. H would automatically promote all parking control officers to supervisory status after 10 years on the job.

Critics of the measure have seized upon this last aspect of the proposed charter amendment to try to invalidate the entire proposition. They argue that Prop. H is a real budget buster, creating a glut of managers who would automatically be promoted to higher status.

But their biggest concern is its impact on other city services. According to estimates by the San Francisco Controller's Office, the city would forfeit \$25 million annually over the next three years if Prop. H passes.

The Brainchild of Cesar Ascarrunz

Proposition H was organized by Cesar Ascarrunz, a frequent candidate for may-



The parking fines will be cut down to size if Proposition H passes, but so will the city revenue. Instead of a quarter, will it be: Brother, can you spare a dime? Photo by Beverly Thorp

or and the owner of Cesar's Latin Palace, a popular nightclub on Mission Street.

Ascarrunz said he decided to put the measure on the ballot because he got tired of hearing all "the horror stories" of people getting exorbitant parking tickets for "no good reason."

In his official ballot argument, Ascarrunz maintains that poor people are being drastically punished by the city for committing relatively minor parking offenses.

The current parking fines in San Francisco range from \$13, for parking your car in a motorcycle zone, to \$275, for illegally parking in or blocking a handicapped zone. (The huge fines for parking in bus or handicapped zones were mandated by state law and will not be affected by passage of Prop. H—a fact that has not been widely publicized in the current campaign.)

But the most taxing fines, claims Ascarrunz, are those for expired parking meters and streetsweeping infractions. These have been hiked several times since 1988, and went from \$20 to \$25 about a year ago.

"People have to eat potatoes for two weeks," in order to pay their traffic tickets, he says.

Ascarrunz also accuses the Department of Parking and Traffic, which currently oversees the parking control officers and collects all parking fines, of gross mismanagement and accumulating an "unconscionable" profit of \$60 million at the expense of motorists.

(In his interview with *The Noe Valley Voice* last month, Ascarrunz denied having written into the measure the portion having to do with the automatic promotion of parking control officers.

"I would do nothing to increase the payroll of the city," Ascarrunz said.

Rather, he accused the City Attorney's Office of deliberately changing the wording of his initiative to include the section about promotion.

Both the San Francisco Registrar of Voters and the City Attorney's Office denied having manipulated Ascarrunz's original proposal, however.

Julie Moll, a deputy city attorney, called the charges "bizarre," and said neither the

City Attorney's Office nor the ballot simplification committee—both of which are responsible for summarizing voter initiatives—would ever change or modify elements of pending legislation.)

Critics of Prop. H argue that not only will city services suffer from the loss of millions of dollars in revenue from parking fines, but that small businesses will lose out as well, because of increased parking congestion caused by motorists who have less incentive to park their cars legally. That, in turn, the critics say, will discourage shoppers from patronizing commercial areas. Opponents also point out that if the measure passes, it will cost less to park illegally downtown than to use many of the private garages.

Ascarrunz insists that lower fines will not necessarily mean more traffic. People will still be careful about how and where they park, he says. "Nobody wants to pay a ticket, whether it's for \$5 or \$10 or \$25. It's a psychological thing."

As far as the lost revenue goes, Ascarrunz insists that even with reduced fines, the city could still bring in \$40 million a year and would save another \$10 million by getting rid of the Department of Parking and Traffic.

Mixed Reviews on 24th Street

Merchants and motorists in Noe Valley, where parking is never a picnic, appeared sharply divided over the measure.

"As much as we'd like to see fines rolled back, the measure is filled with a bunch of silly things," said J. P. Gillen, owner of Little Italy Restaurant on 24th Street and president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

Gillen worried about how the city would replace the lost revenue from parking tickets.

So too did Carol Yenne, owner of Small Frys on 24th Street. "I'm very concerned about the loss of revenue to the city," she said. Yenne also said the meas-

ure would be a "disincentive to use public transportation and garages."

David Eiland, co-owner of Just for Fun at 24th and Noe, felt that Prop. H might be a boon to local businesses.

"Having meters that accept nickels and dimes would help more than anything," he said. "I'm tired of giving out quarters to customers who need a quarter before they can shop and then find out they've already gotten a ticket."

Eiland added that the city's steep parking fines discouraged shoppers from coming to Noe Valley from other parts of the city.

Local motorists also had widely differing views on the proposition.

In the opinion of one 27th Street resident, who did not wish to be identified, having to shoulder the city's fines and deal with the parking bureaucracy "is like living in Russia."

Another motorist, Bernal Heights resident Nelson Wolfe, favors a change in the meters. "[Allowing] quarters only is highway robbery," he said. However, Wolfe has reservations about reducing the fines. "They are probably at the level they should be at to keep people from taking advantage."

Rory Morgan, a Diamond Street resident, does not think Prop. H has much merit. "I can't get terribly excited about it. I keep quarters. [The fines] seem as good a way to raise money as any—from those who don't obey the law rather than raise taxes for the rest of us."

But Douglass Ware, who lives on South Van Ness and uses the Walgreens parking lot when he shops in the neighborhood, is behind the measure all the way.

"I hope it passes. It's a question of my own personal finances versus the city's finances."

14 Other Props to Play With

Election Day, Nov. 7, is only a week away. So if you haven't cracked open your voter information booklet and studied the issues (there are 14 more city measures in addition to Prop. H), now's the time to do so.

Besides the propositions, we're choosing a new mayor, district attorney, and sheriff.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

For more information about voter registration or the location of your polling place, call the Registrar of Voters at 554-4375 or 554-4398.

On Oct. 23, the Board of Supervisors voted to order the Department of Parking and Traffic to make sure that new electronic parking meters the department planned to install over the next several years were geared to accept nickels and dimes as well as quarters. The move was seen as a clear attempt to hunt support for Proposition H.

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The Return of Buryn's Eye View



A 24th Street pigeon keeps its beak to the ground and avoids making eye contact in this 1994 shot.



This Grand View walker heading home after work might not be carrying birdseed, but let's follow her just in case (1992).

Photos by Ed Buryn



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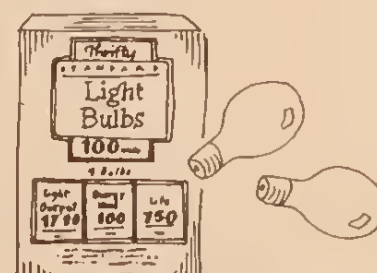
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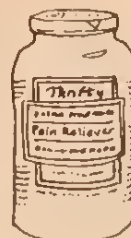


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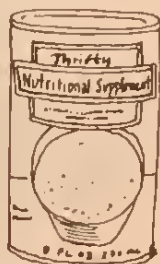
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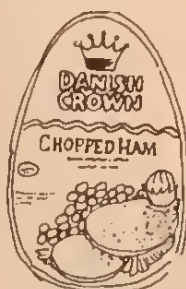
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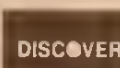
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"Enclosed are some photographs I took when I traveled on a bicycle tour from Vancouver, B.C., to Montana," writes Fima Gelman. Here he rests those quadriceps before the backdrop of Glacier National Park.



Italy proved the number-one destination for mobile Noe Valleons this summer. Here, Edith and Paul Kantus practice their earthquake safety routine and check the news from home at the same time.



Dale Miller, musician and co-owner of Noe Valley Music at 3914 24th St., needed to stay in tune with the events back home while he traveled to Italy this September. Here he takes a break in front of the natural hot baths in the town of Acqui Terme in Piemonte.



It's a beautiful day, and you're on the balcony high above Honolulu, with Diamond Head Crater in the distance. What do you do? Pull out the copy of *The Noe Valley Voice* you stuffed into your carry-on and finish reading the letters to the editor, like voracious reader Jonah Copi.

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Cities with Plazas honoring Cesar Chavez' struggle to protect farm workers and consumers from toxic pesticides...

Houston, TX; San Jose, CA; Phoenix, AZ; San Diego, CA; Los Altos, CA.

Cities that have named their libraries and parks to honor Cesar Chavez' success in bringing health care to farm worker families...

Delano, CA; Salinas, CA; Stockton, CA; Perris, CA; Hayward, CA; Gilroy, CA; Santa Lucia, CA; San Jose, CA; Union City, CA; Phoenix, AZ; Tulare, CA; Berkeley, CA.

Cities naming schools after Cesar Chavez, who fought to end child labor on America's farm lands...

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Friends Touch All the Bases

By Anne Gates

Retail, restaurants, and recycled water—there was something for everyone at the Friends of Noe Valley meeting Oct. 12 at the Noe Valley Library. But in case you missed it, here are the “minutes” of the monthly get-together of Noe Valley’s largest neighborhood association.

Presiding over the meeting were the new officers and board of directors of the Friends, elected Sept. 30. Sharing the role of chairperson for the 1995–96 term are Georgia Finnigan and Cecile Lozano, with Bob Osterloh and Eleanore Gerhardt performing the tasks of secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The Friends also has a new board of directors, composed of 16 members: Jean Amos, Miriam Blaustein, Helen Crowell, Henry Epstein, Tom Finnegan, Peter Gass, Barr Hibbs, Barbara Holman, Paul Kantus, Bill Kuhns, Irene Miller, Julie Ortiz, Claire Pilcher, Micki Ryan, Barbara Solomon, and Harry Stern.

The officers thanked everyone who helped at the library’s garden cleanup on Sept. 30, noting that 16 people pruned the garden and removed 40 sacks of weeds. The Friends invited the neighborhood to come enjoy the deck and garden, located at the rear of the library at 451 Jersey St.

City Reps Explain New Water Works

Recycled wastewater might not be your beverage of choice, but 10 million gallons of wastewater could be recycled every day for Fire Department and irrigation use. So say the departments of Fire, Water, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks, who are joining forces to plan a wastewater recycling program for San Francisco.

Fire Department Lieutenant Tom Murray and engineer Karen Kubick of the Department of Public Works paid a visit to the Friends meeting to explain the city’s Auxiliary Water Supply System. The pioneering program, currently under environmental review, would keep high-quality “snowmelt” water for drinking and other household needs, but would filter and sanitize San Francisco’s wastewater for non-potable needs.

According to Murray and Kubick, Golden Gate Park would be the largest user of the recycled wastewater. The Fire Department’s new recycled-water pipelines would extend high-pressure water service to serve more of the city (particularly the Sunset and the southeastern areas) for better fire protection. Recycled water would be stored at four sites: Fleishacker Pool, Lincoln High School, McLaren Park, and Golden Gate Heights Park (in the West of Twin Peaks area).

An environmental impact report on new underground reservoirs and other construction related to the project will be available in the spring, and will be followed up by a series of public hearings. Eventually the program will go on the ballot as a bond issue.

The estimated cost for recycled water? About 50 cents per person per month. For more information, call Kelly Stewart at Public Affairs Management, 989-1446.

Some See Red Over That Blue Place

The hot topic of the meeting was a restaurant called That Blue Place, which is planning to occupy the long-vacant storefront on the corner of Sanchez and Duncan streets. (See the October 1995 issue of the Voice.)

Viviane Sosa, an active and vocal opponent of That Blue Place, brought her sister, Francine Lewis, and other neighbors to the meeting to ask for support in their fight to block the restaurant’s opening. Sosa and Lewis have formed Save

Our Sanchez (SOS), an ad hoc committee to gather petitions and mobilize opposition to the cafe.

Even though the owners of That Blue Place, Gary Logan and Cliff Gray, withdrew their application for an outdoor seating permit after SOS protested, SOS is continuing to fight the restaurant’s application for a beer and wine license. Currently, the restaurant is under a stop-work order, and Planning Commission administrator Robert Passmore is evaluating the restaurant’s permits, which may have been granted in error. Sosa and other members of SOS expressed deep frustration with the Planning Commission, but vowed not to give up their cause.

Meanwhile, Logan and Gray have hired attorney Alice Barkley to represent their case at the City Attorney’s Office.

Friends co-chairs Georgia Finnigan and Cecile Lozano said they felt that the owners of That Blue Place should be invited to speak at a Friends or board of directors meeting to present their side of the story. A motion to invite them was made and seconded.

No Coffee, No Fast Food

The new retail/apartment complex to be built on 24th Street next to Bell Market will likely house four smaller stores rather than three large stores, as originally proposed by the developer. According to Friends treasurer Eleanore Gerhardt, who reported to the Friends on the matter, the purpose of the change is to lure smaller, independent merchants and thus avoid an influx of chain stores.

Gerhardt also announced that at its regular meeting earlier that afternoon, the City Planning Commission had ruled that neither fast food restaurants nor retail coffee stores could occupy the commercial spaces in the 24th Street development. At the commission hearing, developer Joe Cassidy had agreed to add “a few more”

parking spaces to the 20 slots originally planned for the building’s garage. The number of rental units remains at 19.

Cassidy also stated that he had hired a color consultant to bring the building’s exterior into harmony with 24th Street’s many Victorians. He and a landscaper are working with Elizabeth Street neighbors to design a privacy “screen,” and Cassidy is designating two of the apartments as affordable housing.

Sanchez Hill Project Moves Ahead

Another developer, Seamus McGee, owner of the hilltop property at 21st and Sanchez streets, was at the Friends meeting to hand out a packet of materials, which included elevation and floor plans, building code analyses, and a letter of support from the Dolores Heights Improvement Club.

McGee put to rest any rumors that he is backing out of his development plan for four luxury homes at 3701 21st St.

He noted that earlier in the day he and his sons Tracy and Brian McGee had made further compromises with the opponents of the hilltop development: the garages will now hold three cars each, and garage doors will be smaller than originally proposed. He also said he had expressed willingness to set the garages and houses further back from the street.

If you have questions or comments about the development, Seamus McGee invites you to call him at 695-9937.

It’s a Regular Event

That about wraps it up. For an update, attend the next Friends meeting, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. (The Friends of Noe Valley meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Library on Jersey near Castro Street.) In the meantime, you are welcome to call Georgia Finnigan at 285-8016 for membership information. □



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Welcome to A Cuddly Toy and Doll Workshop

By Jane Underwood

There's a whole lot of sewing going on at Patch of Sunshine, a soft toy and doll-making workshop on Sanchez Street. Teacher Esther Robinson, a nine-year Noe Valley resident, has been making dolls for 25 years and teaching classes for four.

Robinson introduces her students to patterns for well-known storybook characters, ranging from Raggedy Ann and Andy to Winnie the Pooh and Piglet, too. But she also instructs workshop participants in how to design and create their own whimsical friends.

Mothers making toys for their children aren't the only ones taking Robinson's classes. Nurses, therapists, and teachers also sign up to make dolls for friends, relatives, and clients. They come together in much the same way that quilters gather for a quilting bee, arriving with brown bag lunches and ready to pull out fabrics and yarns, set up sewing machines, and stitch the day away.

Inside Robinson's homey living room, Raggedy Ann and Winnie the Pooh share a director's chair that sits beside sparkling glass-paned doors opening onto a backyard full of Robinson's carefully tended flowers—a place where students may go to take a break while contemplating just how they want to shape Eeyore's nose or Baby Roo's eyes.

Born into a family of artists, Robinson recalls how from an early age, "I was working with my hands all the time." She started sewing when she was 10, when she was old enough to operate her grandmother's sewing machine.

In the 1930s and '40s, notes Robinson, pre-made patterns were less precise than they are now, "but I was a pretty clever, inventive person."

While studying English and journalism at the University of Chicago, Robinson also volunteered at the Children's Orthopedic Hospital, putting her craft skills to good use. "We did a lot of toy-making then," she says. "At that time, polio patients were put in casts, sometimes for months or even years, and so they were looking for recreation as much as any-



Surrounded by stuffed animals is just how Esther Robinson likes to be while teaching classes in dollmaking at her Patch of Sunshine workshop on Sanchez Street. Photo by Charles Kennard

thing else."

The toy-making projects were as varied as the donated materials the volunteers had to work with. "These were the Depression days," says Robinson. "The doctors' wives would bring in boxes of stuff, and it was a challenge to see what we could use different things for—it was a fun, creative process, and a very special time in my life."

Robinson married and raised two daughters, for whom she sewed "most of their clothes during the war years," and, of course, made a few toys and dolls, too. "I made a wonderful clown for my daughter Margie," she remembers. "She'd drag that clown down the stairs after her by one leg—thump, thump, thump!"

She also made dolls as gifts for friends and relatives. "My brother's children had a whole Pooh series."

But not until her daughters were grown and gone, and Robinson was searching for a "fun and challenging" retirement activity, did she hit upon the idea of expanding her doll-making hobby into something more.

"One day I thought, what can I do that I can finish fast? Well, I knew that I loved to use fabrics and work with color. These creatures are the result! Here, let me show you a basketful of my friends."

As the tea kettle whistles and Robinson warms up a sticky bun for us to share at the kitchen table, I reach into the big basket where many of Robinson's "resi-

dent" (not for sale) creatures reside. I pull out a golden Pooh bear in a red knit vest, then a red and white Kanga, then a Raggedy Ann.

"That one," says Robinson, pointing to Raggedy Ann, "is wearing a gown, the fabric of which I bought in Paris. Isn't that nice? You'll notice that I don't stick to the red and white striped leggings."

In addition to teaching workshops, Robinson sells the dolls she makes that are her own original creations. "They're all signed and dated and different," she says. "Otherwise it would just be a boring thing.... I drive the fabric store people crazy, buying a quarter of a yard here, a quarter there." (Commercial copyright laws prevent her from selling well-known characters, however, such as the Raggedy Anns and Holly Hobbie dolls that her students sometimes make.)

She takes private orders, which she gets as a result of word-of-mouth, as well as interest generated when people see her handiwork in window displays.

"I had a display doll in a store window," says Robinson, "and the wife of a banker here on convention wanted to buy it. They told her it wasn't for sale, but that she could get in touch with me directly. So she came out by taxicab, and off she went with one of my dolls—back home to Surinam!" Admirers from as far away as New Zealand and China have also sought out her dolls.

Robinson's creations, which range in

price from \$9 to \$65, include dollhouse quilts, 10-inch Amish dolls—with no faces and plain deep-colored clothing, as required by the religion—and Caribbean dolls decked out in straw hats, turbans, colorful scarves, and tiny beaded necklaces and earrings. One doll wears a jogging suit. Her name? Joggina, of course.

In addition to her own stockpile of cuddly companions, Robinson collects children's books (she especially loves *Aesop's Fables*) and toys. "Well, it [the desire to collect toys] just happens to people who make toys!" she declares.

On the wall of her studio, which is overflowing with spools of thread and boxes of buttons and other sundries, Robinson has a framed quote from Picasso: "It takes one a long time to become young."

In Robinson's view, making dolls will help you find that youth a little bit faster. "You can't help smiling back at the dolls. You get a whole bunch of such creatures around in the workshop, and you just have to cheer up!" □

Robinson holds workshops year-round at Patch of Sunshine. Beginners as well as experienced seamstresses are welcome. Classes typically run once a week for six weeks, but also may be shorter or longer, depending upon the goals of the group. Like her dolls, explains Robinson, no two workshops are exactly alike. For more information, call 826-1522.

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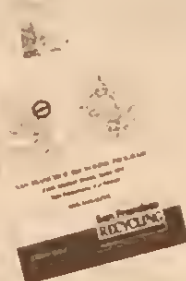
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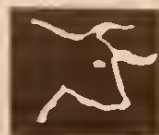
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AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

The Greening of Aunt Hermione

By Ruhama Veltfort

"AFTER NEARLY 90 years on this planet, I wish somebody would invent a new vegetable," Aunt Hermione said wistfully. We were coming from the doctor's office, where we'd each had our annual checkups.

She went on. "Now it's the eye doctor who's after me to eat those boring leafy greens."

"I guess you liked it better when doctors never talked about nutrition," I retorted.

"Well, you might say I've seen the ups and downs of it," she said. "First they told us to cook everything to death, then for a while it was the raw foods that were supposed to be so good for you. Then I suppose everyone got heartburn and they went back to cooking again. Or maybe it was PG&E that was pushing the cooking—I don't know."

"Maybe you should write a history of food fads," I suggested.

"Oh, you're always after me to write

Spinach Parmesan

Ingredients

1 large bunch spinach, washed well and chopped
2 cloves chopped garlic
2 tablespoons butter
Salt and pepper to taste
1/2 cup Italian flavored bread crumbs
1/2 cup grated parmesan or other Italian cheese
(1/2 cup heavy cream, if desired)

Melt the butter in a heavy-bottom skillet. Add the garlic and cook just until soft. Add the spinach, still wet from washing. The water on the leaves should be enough to cook it. Cover the pan and cook on low heat for about 10 minutes, until the spinach is wilted. Salt and pepper to taste. Stir in the cream now, if you are going to use it.

Turn it out into a gratin dish or shallow baking pan, sprinkle the crumbs and cheese on top, and bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes, until the top is brown. Serves 2-4.

something, and then all I hear is that nobody reads anymore, so why bother?"

I smiled to myself. Aunt Hermione wasn't in a real funk, I knew. She'd been pronounced in perfect health, and I didn't see that eating a few more vegetables would hurt either of us, especially with the cold and flu season coming on.

"Well anyway, Aunt Hermione," I said, "there do seem to be new vegetables around. Just take a look at Real Food's on 24th Street."

She sniffed. "You can't fool me," she said. "They are just the same things in different sizes and some new colors."

I had to admit she had a point. "How about some nice steamed broccoli with our lamb chops tonight?"

"There is no such thing as 'nice' steamed broccoli," she admonished. "It is a contradiction in terms."

I knew she didn't like it, but I'd thought I could bribe her with the lamb chops. Fat chance.

I pulled up in front of the Noe Valley Community Store. While Aunt Hermione selected a bottle of organic Cahernet and then pored over the Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream in the freezer, I picked out spinach, collard greens, salad mix, and radishes. I knew I couldn't get away with broccoli for at least a month. The salad would be all right, if I picked up some gorgonzola cheese to crumble into it. Aunt Hermione loved cheese.

"What are you planning to do with those?" She pointed to the greens.

"Cook them," I said brightly. "Except for the salad, of course."

"Well, you'd better cook them well enough," she said. "I don't find raw vegetables very digestible."

"The spinach, too?" I protested. "I do cook collards for half an hour, with onions and a sliced orange, but the spinach?"

"I know a very nice way to do the spinach, and I'll show you. We'll just need a little grated Parmesan cheese and some heavy cream...."

I had just gotten off the doctor's office scales half an hour before, so I drew the line at heavy cream. Aunt Hermione only sulked a little, before she agreed to leave it out. But you can add a half cup to the spinach recipe if you feel like living dangerously. And she loved the collard greens, just as my children always had. □

Collards with Onions and Orange

Ingredients

1 bunch collard greens (kale or mustard greens can be used), washed and chopped
1 small red onion, sliced
1 clove garlic, chopped
1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste
1 small orange, in thin slices cut in half

Heat the olive oil in a heavy skillet, and cook the onion and garlic until just transparent. Add the chopped, wet greens and cover tightly. Cook on very low heat for 40 minutes, adding more water if necessary. Salt and pepper to taste. During the last 10 minutes of cooking, lay the orange half-slices on top of the greens. Serves 4.



VOTE YES ON PROP 'O'

Vote Yes on 'O' to Repeal the Army Street Name Change

Politicians will tell you anything except the truth. Here are the *facts* that cannot be refuted:

- ▶ Over strong objections from the vast majority of Army Street residents and 93% of the businesses, the Board of Supervisors changed Army Street to Cesar Chavez Street.
- ▶ PROP 'O' is about restoring the name of 145-year-old Army Street. It has nothing to do with the honor or legacy of Cesar Chavez.
- ▶ Changing Army Street's name was strictly a political railroad job by the Board of Supervisors to satisfy special interest groups.
- ▶ Key players campaigning against the name Army Street don't even live in San Francisco.
- ▶ PROP 'O' was put on the ballot by an unpaid citywide volunteer group of San Franciscans who gathered more than 18,000 signatures.
- ▶ The Army Street name *must* be reinstated to prevent spending untold thousands for redoing property records, maps, bus signs, sidewalk markings, city documents and much more. Tax dollars are desperately needed elsewhere.
- ▶ The old Army Street signs were saved and can be reinstalled at no cost.
- ▶ Existing freeway signs still read Army Street and will not have to be changed, saving at least \$90,000.
- ▶ Supervisors are upset about renaming 35-year-old Candlestick Park, yet they changed 145-year-old Army Street to satisfy special interests.
- ▶ There are better, less costly, less divisive ways to honor our leaders.

Vote Yes On Prop 'O'

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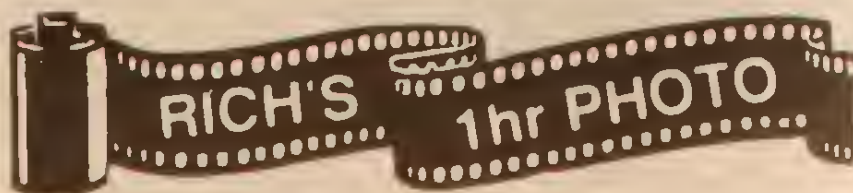
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SHORT TAKES

Gay Family Counseling

The Alternative Family Project (AFP), a counseling service for families with at least one lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender member, is currently hosting a series of "family forums" at 1658 Church St. near 29th Street.

The forums, which are free and open to the public, take place every other Friday from 2 to 4 p.m., and focus on topics ranging from donor insemination to domestic violence to membership in the Lesbian and Gay Parents Association. On Friday, Nov. 10, the AFP will sponsor a speaker from the city's Department of Social Services who will address the "how-to's" of public sector adoption.

In addition to the forums, the Alternative Family Project offers low-cost individual counseling and support groups, a crisis hotline, and a training program for marriage and family counselors specializing in gay family therapy.

"This is a place where people who feel that their family is not validated by society can get support," says Cheryl Deane, AFP founder and project coordinator. "We see good families who are suffering a lot of stress, a lot of it due to homophobia and isolation."

The Alternative Family Project is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Support groups start at \$10 and family counseling sessions start at \$20, but no one is turned away for lack of funds. For more information, call AFP at 566-5683.

The School Daze

Now is the time to choose a school for next year, especially if you'd like your child to attend a public school other than the one he or she is assigned to. From Nov. 6 to Jan. 5, parents may submit Optional Enrollment Requests (OERs) to the San Francisco Unified School District.

If you need help assessing your options, you might want to check out a series of books called *Choosing a Public School for Your Child*, recently released by the San Francisco-based company Publishing 20/20. The three books in the series profile every public school in San Francisco—elementary, middle, and high schools—and rank each according to a dozen factors, including academics, test scores, safety, extracurricular activities, discipline, staff, parent participation, libraries, computers, and counseling.

If you are attempting to wend your way through the private school maze, two other books may be of help. Learning Associates recently updated its *Finding a School in San Francisco*, written by Bay Area educator Vera Obermeyer.

The book provides detailed information on 100 accredited private schools, including independent, Montessori, and religiously affiliated schools, as well as those for children with special needs.

Learning Associates has also published a 1995 edition of *Finding a Preschool for Your Child in San Francisco*, by Vera Obermeyer and Lori Rifkin. This book provides the same kind of information on over 150 private and public preschools, as well as Head Start, California State, and SFUSD child development and pre-kindergarten programs.

All of these guidebooks will be available at Cover to Cover on 24th Street, or can be ordered directly from Publishing 20/20 (487-8190) or Learning Associates (567-8231).



Creeping Down Castro: A big DPW project replacing sewer pipes along Castro between 24th and Elizabeth streets has obstructed traffic during the past month, but contractor Marinship says the end is near, probably the first week of November. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

If you're past the reading stage and ready to visit the schools you are considering, don't forget that November and December are also the months when many schools, both public and private, hold open house nights. For a complete listing of these open house evenings at the public schools, call 241-6310 (elementary schools), 241-6607 (middle schools), or 241-6478 (high schools).

Class on Relationships

The San Francisco Community College District will offer a free six-week course titled "From Love and Relationship Addiction to Intimacy," starting Monday, Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m., at Everett Middle School, 450 Church St.

Led by psychotherapist Bev Wells, the course is designed for adults who may be having difficulty sustaining close relationships.

"I have taught this class for five or six years," says Wells, who works in private practice in San Francisco. "People get some sense of what has been going wrong in their relationships and learn what they need to do to make things different, in terms of dealing with old attachments and communication issues."

The course will also cover recovery, dysfunctional family, and "wounded child" issues in relationships.

For more information, call Wells at 585-5212.

Election Net Results

This month you can get wired about the fall election both *before* and *after* you go to the polls Nov. 7.

First, check out the candidates and issues by logging onto the Internet at any one of 200 computer terminals throughout the San Francisco Library system, including six at the Noe Valley Library at 451 Jersey St.

You can access the non-partisan San Francisco Online Voter Guide, which provides analyses of ballot measures, campaign finance data, and news coverage, by keying in the web site <http://www.election.digital.com>.

Or you can plug into the biography and policy papers of Mayor Frank Jordan—as well as those of mayoral opponents Roberta Achtenberg, Willie Brown, and Ben Hom—by finding the candidates' home pages under "Local Government Resources" in the library menu.

(Note: If you have own a home computer equipped with a modem, you can reach the Internet through the library as well, by dialing (415) 557-4450. Your communications software should be configured to terminal VT100 or other VT emulation, however.)

Then, when you find yourself starving for human interaction, shut down the computer and attend the Noe Valley Dem-

ocratic Club's post-election forum. This year's panel will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 7:45 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

"The post-election analysis is always a very lively panel," says club president Rick Hauptman. "Tim Redmond and Jim Balderston, the political columnists from the *Bay Guardian*, always have an interesting perspective on the election with a particular emphasis on what we did in Noe Valley vis-à-vis the rest of the city. Pollster David Binder also brings his incredible maps and charts, which show how people voted in each neighborhood in the city and where each candidate got his or her vote."

For more information on the meeting or the club, call Hauptman at 647-0549.

How to Be a Book Buddy

San Francisco School Volunteers is currently recruiting for book buddies, tech helpers, and bilingual pals.

Books buddies work with a reading specialist, helping first-graders learn to read, start a journal, or discuss a story. Tech helpers assist students in marine science, biology, physics, and computer science. Bilingual pals provide tutoring for students who speak Samoan, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic.

Here in Noe Valley on Nov. 4, James Lick Middle School will hold an orientation and training workshop for volunteers from 9 a.m. to noon. Workshop topics range from how to better your study skills and communication strategies to coping with gender bias in the classroom.

Call San Francisco School Volunteers at 274-0250 for more information and to register for a workshop.

AIDS Volunteers

Two organizations are putting out a call for volunteers this month.

Shanti, an organization that offers support services for people with AIDS and their loved ones, is offering a five-day volunteer training class on Nov. 10, 11, 12, 17, and 18 (two Friday evenings, from 6 to 10 p.m., and three full weekend days, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

Volunteers provide emotional and practical support to people with AIDS or HIV. The average volunteer commitment is four to six hours per week for six months. In addition, twice-monthly support groups give volunteers a forum for sharing their experiences.

Call Shanti at 864-CARE to register for the class, which will be held at 1546 Market St. near Van Ness.

The AIDS/HIV Nightline is also scouting new volunteers. If you're a good listener and a caring person, the crisis line would love to hear from you by Nov. 8, in time to sign you up for the next training session (days and hours to be arranged).

The AIDS/HIV Nightline, open 5 p.m.

to 5 a.m. seven nights a week, answers over 1,300 calls every month, from the "worried well" to the sick and dying. Call 984-1902 for more information.

Citywide SAFE Workshop

Members of the San Francisco Police Department, representatives from the City Attorney's Office, and several crime prevention specialists will team up to give city residents a day-long safety seminar on Saturday, Dec. 2. The session will run from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., and will be held at the San Francisco Police Academy, 350 Amber St., in Diamond Heights.

Called "Keeping Neighborhoods Safe: Person by Person," the event is sponsored by the nonprofit organization San Francisco SAFE (Safety Awareness For Everyone), and is aimed at providing information and training that will help foster a safer environment in city neighborhoods.

Workshops will explore such topics as assault prevention, community policing, how to talk with your children about safety, and ways to get the city involved in removing public nuisances.

The cost is \$12 per person and includes a continental breakfast and hot lunch. Call 553-1984 to register.

Hire a Teenager

Are you an employer with an entry-level or seasonal job opening? If so, you are encouraged to contact Jobs for Youth, 861-JOBS, a program that pre-screens young job hunters, age 14 to 24, from all over the city.

"We have expanded the summer jobs program and are matching up youth with employers throughout the year," says program director Craig Wolson. "There are many talented young people who need jobs all year-round, whether it's full-time, after school, or on the weekends."

The program also offers employers additional services, such as payroll and technical assistance with setting up internship programs.

This month's Short Takes were written by Michele Lynn and Jane Underwood.



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Let Bylines Be BYLINES

Like a Canary in a Coal Mine

By Maire Farrington

I AM BARELY FIVE MINUTES into my weekly voice lesson, warming up with scales. Arlene, my teacher, puzzled at my sudden faltering through this simple, familiar exercise, stops me for the third time. "I don't know what the problem is today," she says, "but you're not getting a full breath. Expand your ribs, suck in the air—open your mouth and breathe!"

I dutifully attempt to suck in more air, but the nagging voice of warning cracks through my facade of denial. I stop singing mid-scale.

"I know what the problem is," I say. "I shouldn't be here. I have Multiple Chemical Sensitivity. Do you smell the fumes?"

I open the front door to leave, and we look out at the Victorian next door. Workers on scaffolding are diligently scraping paint and applying a thick, gooey solvent to rid the building of the last tenacious bits of color. It smells like the rubber cement my brothers used on their model airplanes.

"What happens to you when you breathe it in?" Arlene asks.

I could tell her about the physical symptoms—the nausea, headaches, and skin rashes; the foul, cloying taste and odor, which coat the insides of my mouth and nostrils even after I manage to get away from the offending agent. I could describe how even moderate exposure to everyday chemicals like perfumes, cleaning agents, or car exhaust can muddle my thinking to such an extent I can barely function.

But the physical symptoms pale in comparison with the emotional toll. Currently, there are few standards for Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS). Its causes are anything but clear-cut, and its physical manifestations are many and varied. There is no specific diagnostic test which can "prove" MCS even exists. The one thing common to all of us with MCS is the daily challenge of living in a society that doesn't understand our disorder and often discounts it altogether. We are told, too frequently, "It's all in your mind."

Every day we find ourselves in a battle zone with an invisible enemy: the plethora of commonly used chemicals

that are inoffensive to most, but physically dangerous to us. We may encounter the enemy anywhere and everywhere—in the public restroom reeking with disinfectants, on line at the bank when the patron ahead is wearing a strong after-shave, on the sidewalk when we stroll past the auto body shop, nail salon, or dry cleaners, or in our own homes when we open a magazine or credit card bill and a fragrance sample topples out.

Ironically, I experienced one of my most frightening exposures while employed at a prestigious medical center. Upon entering the hospital one morning I was immediately enveloped by a heavy, sickly-sweet odor. The cloud was invisible, yet as all-encompassing as our San Francisco fog.

Strangely enough, no one else was bothered by the smell. I tried to ignore it, but four hours later I went home with a pounding head and churning stomach that lingered for days, accompanied by blurred vision, hand tremors, and impaired concentration.



The worst part of the whole ordeal was the anxiety I felt. If I was *this* sensitive to chemicals at the workplace, I thought, how would I be able to maintain my employment?

Upon my return to the hospital, I discovered that the chemical in question was a pesticide, an "ant poison," which had been sprayed in all the offices without any notification to the occupants. I voiced my concern to my supervisor about the inadequately ventilated offices. The answer? "Maybe this is not the job for you."

I have accepted that I am no longer able to work in the typical office environment. So-called "sick buildings," where closed circulation ventilation systems allow fumes from laser-jet and photocopy machines to mingle with chemicals from carpeting and building materials, are beyond my range of tolerance.

NOW THAT I AM self-employed, I am better able to control my work environment, and I am fortunate to have a partner who cooperates in keeping our home as non-toxic as possible by switching over to fragrance-free personal care and household products.

He has become used to changing seats in a theater or restaurant—or leaving outright—when someone wearing perfume takes a seat nearby. But the emotional toll is there for him too, as he watches me struggle with a disability that has robbed me of my identity as a "normal," healthy young woman.

Despite taking measures to avoid toxic substances, we can't always be safe from the harmful effects of chemicals. Recently four tons of oleum were accidentally released from an overheated rail car at a chemical plant in Richmond. The resulting cloud of sulfuric acid sent thousands of people from surrounding communities to the hospital, complaining of sore throats, burning eyes, nausea, and respiratory prob-

lems. In a separate incident earlier this year, close to 200 families were forced to flee their homes and seek temporary residence in a hotel when a fire at an oil refinery in Rodeo caused toxic fumes to spread throughout the area.

Exposures of this nature could have a far more serious effect on someone like me, whose tolerance for chemicals is already compromised. Nevertheless, I am grateful that my life still has a semblance of normalcy. Unlike some people with MCS, I am still able to go out in public, provided that I wear a protective carbon mask. I can still work. Those close to me respect my limitations and do their best to accommodate me. I have read about the Gulf War veterans who have been stricken with debilitating physical ailments stemming from exposure to toxic chemicals, and heard ac-

counts of those who have been more severely disabled with MCS, and my heart goes out to them.

The one thing common to all of us with MCS is the daily challenge of living in a society that doesn't understand our disorder and often discounts it altogether.

Those of us with MCS are the modern-day equivalent of the canary in the coal mine. Like a limp bird at the bottom of a cage, we signal the danger that lies ahead. Our already damaged bodies are a testament to the fact that the indiscriminate use of chemicals may jeopardize the entire human species.

My father, formerly a chemist for a major chemical company, would be the first to remind me that all chemicals are not harmful. With that I agree. But I also advocate the safe and responsible use of chemicals to prevent others from further suffering, and I ask for acceptance and accommodation for those of us for whom prevention is already too late.

Maire Farrington, a 13-year San Francisco resident, facilitates women's writers' groups and runs a psychotherapy practice in Noe Valley.

Drop Us a Byline

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of first-person essays, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. Please mail manuscripts, which should be typed, double-spaced, and fewer than 1,200 words, to The Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Thank you.

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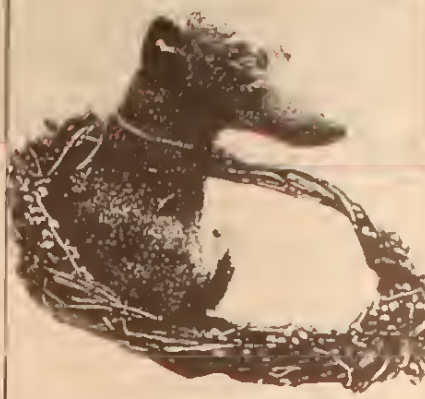


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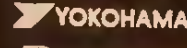
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The Swingin' Doors Band Swings Easily From Rock to Country

By Jeff Kaliss

"I love being a party band," says Jenifer McKittrick, raising her glass in a toast. The slender, smiling McKittrick is relaxing among friends at Noe's Bar & Grill, and remembering when her group, the Swingin' Doors, played their debut gig at the Rover's Inn, a couple of blocks up 24th Street, earlier this year.

"Some guy we didn't know brought up two shot glasses and handed them to me and Dwight [McKittrick's fellow songwriter and guitarist Dwight Been]. It was peppermint schnapps, which I hate, but I knew we had to drink them, because we were the party, and part of the attitude of being a party band is to play songs that the people dig and let them know that you're not apart from them."

The Swingin' Doors are even a part of Noe's jukebox now, where their premiere CD, *Unhinged*, is selection #80.

"I walk in here and hear it playing," says McKittrick. One of the most popular tracks is "So Pretty So Fast," a country-rock tune written by Been, who also sings the lead vocal.

But Been's inspiration for the song came from McKittrick, who works days dispensing drinks at Noe's.

"One of the regular customers here," McKittrick explains, "every afternoon when he orders his Manhattan, looks at me and says, 'Darlin', how'd you get so pretty so fast?' I told Dwight this, and said, 'Can you write a song about it?' And he said, 'I think so.'"

Been wrote three and McKittrick four of the album's original tracks, and there's a cover of Blondie's 1979 hit "Dreaming." "I've always heard that a cover tune can make a band, if they do it just right," McKittrick confides, noting that her band's version of "Dreaming" is also popular with Noe's jukebox junkies.

The Swingin' Doors culled their name from another of their cover tunes, penned in 1965 by Merle Haggard. But despite Been's tendency toward country twang in his singing and strumming, and the cowboyish look to the portrait on the album's cover, there's an alternative rock buzz floating in and out of the group's repertoire, which is largely attributable to McKittrick, 33.

While attending college at Kent State in her home state of Ohio, McKittrick was a founding member of the Bettys.

"It was an all-girl band that was very punk, but not just thrash punk," she says. "We were young and drunk and unafraid, three gay girls and two straight ones. People enjoyed coming to see us, because they'd be in awe of the songs, but made to feel comfortable by the fact that they knew they could probably play them better than us!"

Among her fellow students were Diane Glaub, the future first drummer for the Swingin' Doors, and Dwight Been. "He was my first date in school there," chuckles McKittrick, "and we both turned out to be gay later, which we found out about each other after we met again out here."

After completing a degree in advertising ("just to graduate"), McKittrick spent most of a year in Cleveland ("a dump") and was then lured to Provincetown on Cape Cod by a former Betty.

"The gay tourists came in for four months, and the other eight months it was



Lead singer/guitarists Jenifer McKittrick and Dwight Been, along with Swingin' Doors bass player Stephanie Lee and drummer Diane Glaub, return to the Rover's Inn on 24th Street for two gigs this month: Nov. 4 and Nov. 11 at the Noe Valley Music Festival. Photo by Beverly Sharp

a desolate winter village. One year I spent six months playing a guitar for six hours a day at home on the third floor of a house with a wood burning stove and a garden out back that was full of frozen green tomatoes.

"And I had three bands during the winter — Roadhouse, Mofo, and Captain

so we came here."

McKittrick was delighted to discover that dozens of her former Kent State friends and fans had preceded her. They urged her to locate in Noe Valley, where she found a job waiting tables at Noe Valley Pizza and a nearby open mike at the Firehouse on 16th Street. She later bar-



Jenifer
Taurus
Favorites:
Book: A Suitable Boy
Movie: Tough Guys Don't Dance
Car: '58 Impala Hardtop
Food: Mashed Potatoes
Band: The Rolling Stones
Song: Have You Ever Seen the Ram



Dwight
Leo
Favorites:
Book: The Movie Goer
Movie: The Loved One
Car: AMC Marlin
Food: Burritos
Band: Merle Haggard and The Strangers
Song: Swinging Doors



Stephanie
Capricorn
Favorites:
Books: Song of Solomon and Equal Affections
Movie: Tam Popo
Mode of Transportation: Walking
Food: Fresh Picked Mangoes
Band: Indigo Girls
Time of Day: Mealtime
Scent: Lemon Blossoms



Diane
Aquarius
Favorites:
Book: Diet For A Small Planet
Movie: Paris, Texas
Car: '70 Dats 442
Food: Taco Tonto's El Biggo Bean Burrito
Band: AC/DC featuring Bon Scott
Song: Dry by PJ Harvey
Hobbies: Bread Baking, Softball, Playing Drums for Strawman

Nine of the 10 songs on *Unhinged*, the Swingin' Doors new rock-and-country CD, were composed by Jenifer McKittrick or Dwight Been.

Album jacket photos by Zannah Noe

Video and the Sex Pirates—which would play in one club, Captain John's, three nights in a row, I did that for about two years, and that's where I really got my stage know-how—how to look around a crowd and not get nervous about playing these little rooms."

After soaking up the influence of the Velvet Underground, and trekking to Boston to try to make it in the clubs there, McKittrick became restless.

"The Boston music scene is really airtight, and the music is not that great. And I think the reason is that it's so unwelcoming to bands. I thought, I gotta go to New York. But my friend who I was living with at the time said, 'No, let's go to San Francisco, I've been there and it's killer.' We arm-wrestled over it and I lost,

tended at Eichelberger's on 17th, but moved on to daylight hours at Noe's after she became pregnant with her daughter Maggie a couple of years ago. She still lives in the neighborhood, with Maggie and companion Amy Capen (Maggie's arrival, in fact, was announced in the *Voice's* July 1995 More Mouths column).

To the Kent State alumni nucleus of McKittrick, Been, and Glaub, the Swingin' Doors added bass and fiddle player Stephanie Lee. During their three years together, they've opened at Slim's for American Music Club and played Edinburgh Castle, the Blue Lamp, and the Chameleon, as well as the Rover's Inn and Noe's.

There's no labeling the music, though. The album's tracks swing from the ironic but haunting ballad in Been's "You're Just Her Tattoo" to the Tom Pettyish plaint of McKittrick's "I Came Down" and the punk rap of her "Homeless."

"The songs that really move me are the ones I don't set out to write in any style at all," says McKittrick. "Then I listen to them later and go, oh, that's a Jenifer McKittrick tune."

She's a bit annoyed at comparisons to Edie Brickell, because "I consider those women like Brickell and Sheryl Crow to be like puppy dogs in the rock world. I like it so much more when somebody compares my guitar playing to somebody like [the Rolling Stones'] Keith Richards. I'm a freewheeling singer, I hold the important notes, and the rest of them, they're jazz. If my rhythm section rocks, I roll, gliding in between the notes, hanging out."

As she did on the Cape, McKittrick has developed something of a following, comprised, to a great extent, of movers and shakers such as herself.

"I walk out between sets and talk to people, and everybody has a photo show opening or a new book coming out, or is producing a new TV show or making an album with another hand. It's a sense of community and of a cultured salon of happening people."

Demographically, she adds, "They're mostly in their 30s, college-educated, making about \$18,000 a year—and about 40 percent gay."

Even McKittrick's father, who was steeped in the old school of rock, now numbers as one of her admirers. "He's so excited about this Swingin' Doors CD," McKittrick says, "because it's the first time I've brought something home that sounds like real music to him."

As for daughter Maggie, who's pictured on the album's back cover, "she loves my songs, but she's my harshest critic. When she likes the songs on the record, she goes, 'Yeah, yeah,' but if I write one that isn't as good as 'Old McDonald Had a Farm,' she'll be the first to let me know."

The Swingin' Doors return to the Rover's Inn for an evening gig on Nov. 4, and during the Noe Valley Music Festival the afternoon of Nov. 11. The band also plays the Starry Plough in Berkeley on Nov. 9 and Edinburgh Castle on Nov. 11. *Unhinged* is on sale at Streetlight Records. For more information on the band, call 647-3631. □

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Sat. Dec. 2 KITKA (AT NOE VALLEY MINISTRY) \$13 adv/\$14 door

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O V E M B E R

NOV. 1: Cruise Holidays sponsors an ALASKAN CRUISE seminar 6:30 pm Rami's Cafe, 1361 Church St. Call 550-1899 for reservations

NOV. 1, 8, 15 & 29: Toddlers, infants, and parents are welcome at the Noe Valley Library's LAPSITS 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

NOV. 1-12: Nancy Karp + DANCERS perform a commemorative work, *Kristallnacht*, Night of Broken Glass Nov 1 and Thurs-Sun, 8 pm Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. 621-7797

NOV. 1-22: Gallery Sanchez hosts "Bonding with the Light and the Dark," an ART SHOW about the history of the world in our time. Reception Nov 4, 2-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

NOV. 1-DEC. 24: "Portrait of a Community: Noe Valley Through the Eyes of Noe Valley Voice Photographers, 1977-1993," continues on EXHIBIT at the Main Library. Laikin & McAlister 557-4400

NOV. 1-DEC. 31: The Sateway FOOD DRIVE benefits the San Francisco Food Bank, bins will be provided for non-perishable donations. Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am-5 pm. Call 957-1076 for info or to volunteer

NOV. 2-11: The Pacific DANCE Collective performs new and repertory works at Dancers' Group/Footwork Thurs-Sat, 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044

NOV. 2-11: Volunteers are needed to read to a class of elementary students for one hour, in celebration of READ ALOUD DAY. Call Gina Lorenzo or Marianne Dominguez at 274-0250

NOV. 2-DEC. 3: MARGA GOMEZ performs her solo show, "A Line Around the Block." Tues-Sun, 8 pm. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. 861-7933

NOV. 3 & 4: The Community MUSIC Center Orchestra performs the premiere of San Francisco composer Gregory Ballard's *Piano Concerto No. 2* 8 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015

NOV. 4: Natural Resources offers a class in Infant & CHILDCPR. 2-5:30 pm. 4081 24th St. 550-2611.

NOV. 4: Organist Charles Rus performs MUSIC by Couperin, Howells, and Bach. 5 pm. Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, 1661 15th St. 861-1436.

NOV. 4: Old Wives' Tales Bookstore's CELEBRATION of Children begins at 10 am. 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675

NOV. 5: St. Paul's BINGO GAMES begin at 1:30 pm; doors open at noon. School Hall, corner of Church & 29th St. 648-7538.

NOV. 5: Bring non-perishable FOOD BANK contributions to the Forty-Niners vs. the Carolina Panthers game and receive an autographed pennant and a J.C. Penney 25% discount coupon. 1 pm. Candlestick Park. 957-1076

NOV. 5: VIOLINIST Sin-Tung Chiu and pianist Omilry Cogan perform the complete *Sonatinas for Piano and Violin, Op. 137, Nos. 1, 2 & 3* by Franz Schubert. 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015

NOV. 6 & 20: Media Alliance offers a two-day class, "Writing Successful BOOK PROPOSALS." 6:30-9:30 pm. 814 Mission St., Suite 205. 546-6491

NOV. 7: City residents will cast their votes for mayor, district attorney, and sheriff, and say yea or nay to 15 propositions on ELECTION DAY. Polls are open from 7 am-8 pm. 554-4375

NOV. 7: The Women's AIDS NETWORK's monthly meeting features a report from Beijing. 9-11 am. Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market St., 2nd floor. 621-4160.

NOV. 7: Noe Valley ARTISTS Mark Adams and Beth Van Hoesen sign their latest books, *Mark Adams: A Way With Color* and *Beth Van Hoesen, Works on Paper*. 5:30-7:30 pm. John Berggruen Gallery, 228 Grant Ave. 781-4629.

NOV. 7: Noel Ignatiev discusses his BOOK about racism in American society, *How the Irish Became White*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

NOV. 7 & 14: Jan Zobel leads a seminar, "Basic TAX and Recordkeeping Information for Self-Employed People." 7-9:30 pm. Valencia at 23rd St. 821-1015.

NOV. 7, 21 & 28: The Noe Valley Library's preschool STORY TIME begins at 10:30 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

NOV. 8: Local author Ruthanne Lum McCunn presents her latest novel, *Wooden Fish Songs*. 7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

NOV. 9: Radical Women's monthly dinner meeting features a discussion of AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. 6:45 pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278

NOV. 9: FRIENOS of Noe Valley holds its monthly meeting at the Noe Valley Library. 7:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 285-8016

NOV. 9: MYSTERY writers Janet Dawson and Susan Holtzer read from their new books. 7 pm. Glen Park Books, 2788 Diamond St. 587-3733

NOV. 9: Susan Stinson discusses her "fantastical western" NOVEL, *Martha Moody*. 7:30 pm. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675

NOV. 9: Artists' Television Access screens pulp VIDEOS *Paula K. Conquers the World* and *Mad Poets of Frisco*. 8:30 pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890

NOV. 10: Ben Peterson, president of SOUTH AFRICA's militant truck driver's union discusses labor's fight for justice. 8 pm. Socialist Action Bookstore, 3425 Chavez/Army St. 821-0458.



The six-piece steel drum band Pan Ramajay brings its high-energy blend of calypso, jazz, and Latin music to the Noe Valley Music Series Nov. 4

NOV. 3-DEC. 8: The Growing Stage offers a class in SLAPSTICK physical comedy for ages 14-18. Fri., 5-6:30 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 681-5850

NOV. 4: Train to be a bilingual pal or a book buddy VOLUNTEER in the public schools. 9 am-noon. James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe St., 274-0250

NOV. 4: The ICE SKATING RINK at Justin Herman Plaza opens! Daily, 10 am-10 pm. 666-7035.

NOV. 4: The Noe Valley Music Series presents PAN RAMAJAY, a six-piece band fusing steel drum, calypso, jazz and Latin American music. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238

NOV. 4 & 5: The San Francisco Bay Area BOOK FESTIVAL features readings, dialogues, and panel discussions with 200 authors. 10 am-6 pm. Concourse Exhibition Center, 635 Eighth St. 861-2665.

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C A L E N D A R

NOV. 10-18: MASK THEATER troupe Stone Soup perform at Third Wave Dance House. Fri. & Sat., 8:30 pm. 3316 24th St. 861-SOUP

NOV. 10-DEC. 14: Noe Valley Voice photographer NAJIB JOE HAKIM exhibits *Glimpses of Havana*. Exposed Gallery, 425 South Van Ness, 487-9996



Blond comedian Marga Gomez promises to create "A Line Around the Block" for her solo performances Nov 2-Dec. 3 at Josie's Cabaret. Photo by Craig Schwartz

NOV. 11: Start your holiday shopping at ICA's CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE to benefit the Dominican Sisters ICA Auditorium, Guerrero & 24th St. 824-2052

NOV. 11: Lisa Moresco facilitates a class in INFANT CARE for new parents 10 am-noon. Natural Resources, 4081 24th St. 550-2611

NOV. 11: Congressional representatives Ronald Oellums and Nancy Pelosi hold a PUBLIC HEARING on economic insecurity and unemployment. Noon-4 pm. State Building, 505 Van Ness Ave. 397-4911.

NOV. 11: The 11th annual Noe Valley MUSIC FESTIVAL features rock, country, Latin, and jazz at five clubs on 24th, Church, and Valencia streets. 2-8 pm. 285-2892

NOV. 12: Stardust PUPPETS perform *Aladdin & the Magic Lamp*, with a free puppet making workshop for 5-8 year olds. 1 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235

NOV. 12: The Pacific Sticks PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE performs "The Young People's Guide to Fun With Percussion." 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

NOV. 12: The San Francisco CHILDREN'S CHORUS sings popular and folk songs from around the world. 3 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015

NOV. 12: The PFLAG SUPPORT group meeting features a talk by Leroy Aarons, author of *Prayers for Bobby*, and Mary Griffith, Bobby's mother. 2-4 pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850

NOV. 12: Chattanooga CHAMBER MUSIC hosts harpsichordist Phebe Craig and violinist Michael Sand performing music by Bach. 3 pm. 152 Chattanooga St. Call 641-0940 for reservations

NOV. 12: The Noe Valley Ministry's CANTATE service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

NOV. 14: The Noe Valley Library shows FILMS for pre-schoolers. *Giant Turtles*, *Frog Goes to Dinner*, and *Happy Lion*. 10 & 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

NOV. 14: POETS Richard Benbrook and Geri Digiorno read at Keane's. 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 333-3494.

NOV. 14: Lucy Jane Bledsoe reads from her collection of SHORT STORIES, *Sweat*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

NOV. 15: The Carnival of Wonders PUPPET THEATRE performs a Punch & Judy show for kids 3 and up. 6 pm. Mission Branch Library, 3359 24th St. 695-5090

NOV. 15: The Noe Valley Library screens the classic VALENTINO FILM, *Son of the Sheik*. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

NOV. 15: The Noe Valley Democratic Club hosts a POST-ELECTION analysis forum. 7:45 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-0549

NOV. 16: LA LECHE LEAGUE's monthly meeting features a discussion, "The Art of Breastfeeding and Avoiding Difficulties." 12:15 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez St. 282-7816

NOV. 16: A VEGETARIAN COOKING class meets the third Thursday of every month in the Noe Valley Ministry kitchen. 6-8 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. Call 285-1831 to preregister

NOV. 16: Kim Epifano and Julie Kane perform solo and duet improvisational DANCES. 8:30 pm. Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044



Voice photographer Najib Joe Hakim's photos of Cuba will be on display at Exposed Gallery Nov. 10-Dec. 14. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

NOV. 16-19: Oance Kumikokimoto presents a multimedia DANCE/ THEATER work, *Masao*. 8 pm, Sun., 2 pm also. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. 621-7797

NOV. 17: Walt Odets discusses his BOOK about gay men who are HIV negative, *In the Shadow of the Epidemic*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246

NOV. 18: David Kline will be on hand to sign copies of his BOOK *Road Warriors: Dreams and Nightmares Along the Information Highway*. 3 pm. Cover to Cover, 3910 24th St. 282-8080

NOV. 18: A BENEFIT for Miraloma Cooperative Nursery School features a silent auction, wine tasting, and dessert sampling. 7:30-11 pm. Fort Mason Conference Center, 585-6789

NOV. 25: Psychic Horizons' HEALING FAIR runs from 2-4 pm at the Noe Valley Ministry. 1021 Sanchez St. 346-7906

NOV. 25 & 26: The Association of California Ceramic Artists' Holiday CLAY & GLASS FESTIVAL features the work of 90 artists. 10 am-5 pm. County Fair Building, 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way. (510) 865-0541

NOV. 28: Morton Marcus reads his POETRY at Keane's. 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 333-3494

NOV. 29: Julia Alvarez's novel, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, is this month's selection at the Noe Valley Library BOOK DISCUSSION group. 7:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

DEC. 2: The Noe Valley Cooperative NURSERY SCHOOL invites the neighborhood to its annual benefit, featuring Irish music by the Coirm Cheoil. 8 pm. The Rover's Inn. 4026 24th St. 647-2278

The Scoop on Calendar

The December 1995/January 1996 issue of *The Noe Valley Voice* will appear Wednesday, Dec. 6, and will publicize events in both December and January. The deadline for calendar items is Nov. 15. Please mail your notice to *The Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley events receiving priority.

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with Susan Olk and Paul Holzman

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This column is also a forum that will present answers to your specific questions regarding real estate. Please feel free to call us with anything that is on your mind.

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David Kline Flags Down Fast Drivers On the Info Highway

By Jeff Kaliss

The next few decades will witness profound alterations not only in the ways we live, work, entertain, and inform ourselves, but also in the strategies of businesses, the dynamics of the marketplace, the competition between companies and between countries, the process of wealth creation, and even the role of government. By whatever name we choose to call it—the Internet, multimedia, interactive TV, or the Information Highway—the Digital Revolution is going to transform the personal future of everyone....

—Excerpted from *Road Warriors*, by David Kline and Daniel Burstein

"People think high technology is the latest panacea," announces David Kline. He's written at length about that mistaken perception in his 435-page book, *Road Warriors: Dreams and Nightmares Along the Information Highway*, recently published by Dutton.

The book's neon yellow, green, and magenta cover is aglow between us on the table at Martha & Bros. coffeeshop on 24th Street. It's also down the block at Cover to Cover bookstore, where Kline, a Dolores Street resident, will be signing copies on Nov. 18.

He has just returned from a seminar in Washington, D.C., where there'd been a lot of hoopla about how computers and their deployment on the Internet are promising a new source of wealth. But Kline points out that the most avid advocates of high-tech have to admit that "wealth creation is only taking place in the 20 to 30 percent of the population directly associated with using this technology."

Furthermore, he adds, just running an Internet wire into the public schools "is not going to overcome, by itself, the fact that a significant percentage of the kids are on drugs or carrying weapons or have no realistic prospect of playing a productive, meaningful role in society."

Road Warriors, which Kline co-authored with Connecticut-based economist Daniel Burstein, also criticizes anti-regulatory exponents of the Internet such as House



Author-journalist David Kline, a Dolores Street resident, has co-written a book, *Road Warriors*, which tries to demystify the digital drivers on the Internet. Photo by Beverly Thorp

Speaker Newt Gingrich.

"These are the people who advocate policies such as abolishing the FCC or the EPA," Kline notes. "They're saying that cyberspace doesn't need a conscience. They think that new technology in a free market is going to prevent business from turning the planet into an orbiting toxic dump."

"[But] it ain't gonna be like that," he warns. "We need to make choices."

This is not to say that Kline himself is turned off to the potential of computers. Way back in 1980, he was arguably the first journalist to ever use a portable computer in a war zone, in Afghanistan. As he went on to cover stories about international strife, including the Ethiopian famine, he continued to benefit from the ability to file with CBS, *The New York Times*, and other publications via his computer's telephone modem.

Since beginning work on *Road Warriors* in 1992, he's also become a contributing writer for *Wired*, the leading magazine dealing with the Internet's global linkup of computer networks, and for *HotWired*, which is *Wired's* presence on the Worldwide Web, the Internet's multimedia showcase.

These new resources "could be a terrific catalyst and stimulus to reenergize our economic life and even our social fabric," Kline maintains, "but not by themselves, only as part of a larger set of policies and initiatives. For instance, we need a complete overhaul of education, and only one element of that is using new technology."

The popular press, notes Kline, has also made too much out of the recent cyberporn scare.

"For somebody to be concerned with

things like nude pictures on the Internet [while ignoring flesh and blood issues like poverty, illiteracy, and crime on the streets] is a little out of whack with reality," he points out.

However, scrollers on the Internet should always be on the lookout for shady characters, says Kline, relating a personal experience that he includes in the book.

"The very first time my son, Daniel [age 13], logged onto America Online, I was sitting there with him, and somebody in the kids' chat room said, 'What are you wearing?' Daniel said something like, 'Sweats,' and the person said, 'Are you wearing an athletic supporter?' That's when I came online," and took over the reins of the keyboard.

Aside from demystifying some of the technology and debunking "the demon or holy grail" image of the Internet, Kline's book offers guidelines for launching a digital startup or other online venture. He cites as a worthwhile example Electric Classifieds, the South of Market compa-

ny that provides interactive want ads for jobs, homes, and personal relationships.

Kline notes that "just because you're in cyberspace, the laws of business are not suspended, and you still need to have a good business plan."

Road Warriors also features an appendix of in-depth interviews with "the most powerful people on the planet, who are going to have a lot more to do with our future than President Clinton," argues Kline.

These "digirati" include John Malone, "the Cowboy of Cable, the head of TCI, the largest cable company in the world; Ray Smith, his archnemesis, the head of Bell Atlantic, one of the largest telephone companies; Reed Hundt, chair of the FCC; and people in Hollywood, startup visionaries, financiers, the people who are making this happen in the real world of business and commerce, which is the driving engine of technology."

Kline, whose brother Larry is a founder of the long-successful Noe Valley Cyclery, notes that the Internet must become as essential on the micro as it is on the macro level, if it's going to be an attractive marketplace.

"Right now, you can download the Library of Congress, but you can't reserve a book at the Noe Valley Library on the Internet," he points out. "They need to think of anything that's a major hassle—protesting parking tickets, renewing your driver's license, getting information about a contractor or a babysitter. That's how to get ordinary people onto the 'net.'"

The web site set up to promote Kline's book may be one of the best-designed places on the Worldwide Web. If you have access to the Internet, you can find it by typing <http://www.roadwarriors.com>.

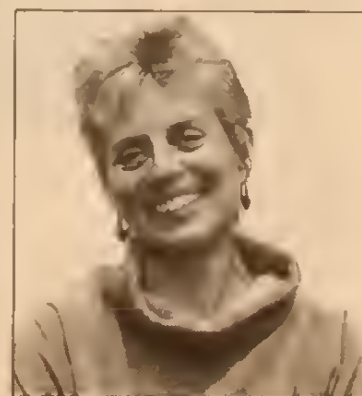
But if you'd like to meet the real live author, come to Kline's book signing at Cover to Cover, 3910 24th St. It starts at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18. □

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24th Street's Museum of the Right: Harry Aleo's display window at Twin Peaks Properties is getting so crowded, he might want to apply for an NEA grant. Photo by Nojib Joe Hokim

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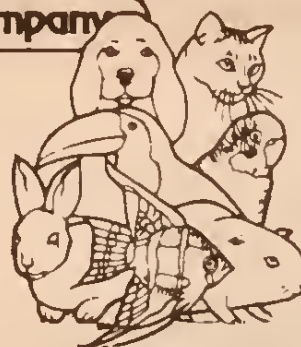
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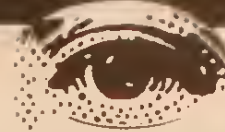
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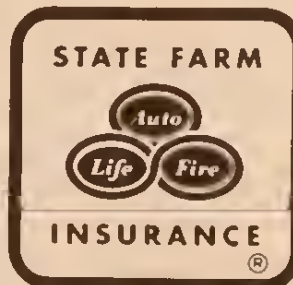
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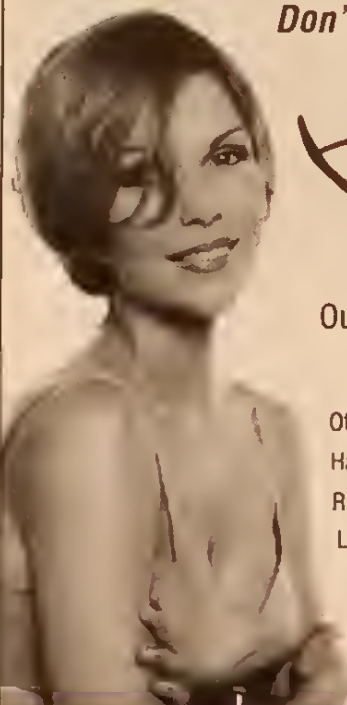
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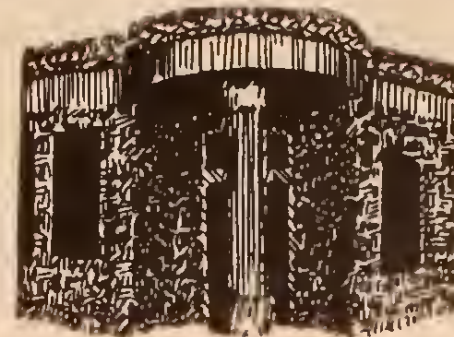
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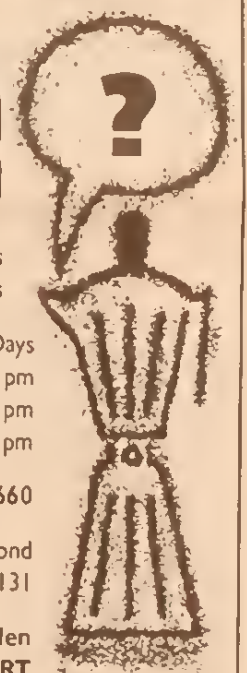
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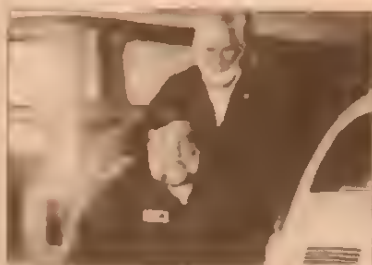
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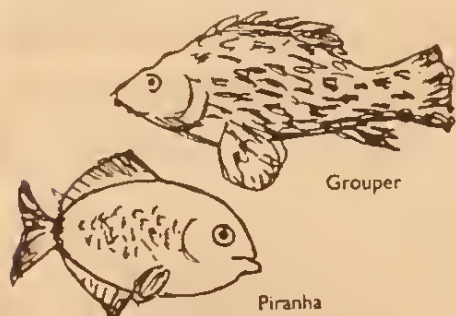
The Grande Dame of Museums—that's what former Director John E. McCosker called Steinhart Aquarium, for it is the oldest operating municipal aquarium in the United States. It was built with funds donated by a generous citizen, Ignatz Steinhart, bless him, and in 1923 it was presented to the city of San Francisco.

Steinhart Aquarium is one of the city's most visited and famous cultural institutions—a frequent destination for families and school children that instills a sense of wonder, respect, and concern for the natural world.

As one of the largest aquariums in the world, Steinhart has over 800 species of fish (several of which are endangered), as well as penguins, lizards, frogs, turtles, snakes, alligators, and a beautiful living coral reef.

As a little girl I remember visiting the elegant building on a Sunday with my family, and standing in front of what was then the entrance at the graceful metal ballustrade decorated with sea horses. Looking between the bars, I could see enormous reptiles draped on a rock in the middle of the "swamp," a fern-fringed lagoon complete with waterfall. The crocodilians were 18 feet long from snout to tail, and had long jaws edged with terrifying spiked teeth.

At 6 years of age, I had never seen anything so big or fearsome, and it was reassuring to have a great deal of metal



Grouper

Piranha

and distance between them and me. My man Leo also remembers standing at the swamp, peering down at the hungry-looking alligators and entertaining the worst-case scenario: what would happen if I fell in?

We can only guess. Alligators have, after all, been around for 215 million years. (Personally, I think those teeth have something to do with it.)

At the Aquarium, each of the creatures demonstrates its own unique adaptation for survival on our planet.

Steinhart Aquarium— The Grande Dame of Museums

One of the most ingenious is the flashlight fish, which in its natural ocean habitat lives at depths where light doesn't penetrate. Since it needs light to attract food, the fish has developed "headlights," special organs beneath its eyes that it can turn on and off by blinking. Visitors to the Steinhart can see the little lights of the flashlight fish, blinking and darting around the darkened tank.

The trout tank illustrates how rainbow trout can change both their name

first holds the sea horses, whose males incubate their young in a pouch. The female comes around once in a while to check on things, but only because she is impatient to deposit yet another batch of eggs.

Another tank I can't resist contains shark eggs, which have been fertilized and suspended so that visitors can see the embryo wriggling inside the translucent egg case. After one bursts out, it swims in circles.



Alligator

and color when they migrate from fresh water to the ocean. In lakes and streams, they resemble a rainbow (their freshwater name), but once in the ocean they take on a silvery appearance, sparkling like the sea, and become "steelhead."

Some fish can reverse their sex. The grouper, which begins life as a male, transforms itself into a female later on. The wrasse is another sex-reversing species. When a male is needed to fertilize the harem of females, voila! someone volunteers for a sex change.

Piranhas are usually shy and not a danger to man, but when food is scarce, a school of them can reduce a large animal to a skeleton in minutes!

The South African black-footed penguins live in a recreated environment where they lay "clutches" of eggs in little caves, up to eight per year. These penguins mate for life, and both parents share parenting duties during incubation period for their eggs. Penguins are neither fish nor mammal; they are birds that "fly" through the water as they hunt for food, using their powerful wings as flippers. Those at the Aquarium were all born in captivity, as part of a nationwide captive breeding effort.

There are also three little tanks that I can never pass without stopping. The

On the day that I sketched them for this article, one of the babies (about six inches long) stopped with his nose to the pane of glass, his eyes riveted on me. Although his eyes were on the side of his head, and in spite of the fact that sharks are supposed to have poor vision, I truly believe he was assessing the enormous creature out there—the one holding a yellow weapon (pencil) in its claws. Perhaps he was thinking, what would I do if I fell out of this box?

Lastly, I love to look into the tank of garden eels, which live within the sandy sea bottom most of the time, but occasionally pop their heads and torsos out, in order to feed on microscopic plankton. Swaying with the current, they look like a "garden of eels." The endearing little creatures span only the width of my forefinger, and have two guileless eyes that look like shiny black beads.

There is so much to see, especially for out-of-state visitors. I recall one summer in the early '30s when the Hansons, Swedish friends of my parents, traveled from the small town of Anaconda, Montana, to see us.

On the way they spotted a sign posted at a roadside fruit stand advertising "Alligator Pears, \$1." At that time,



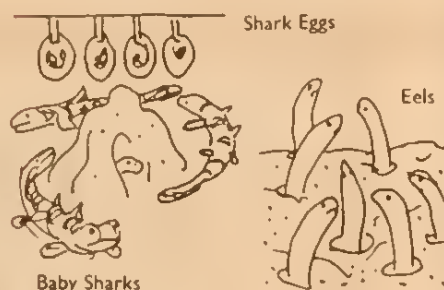
pears were going for a dime a dozen, so Mrs. Hanson decided that these alligator pears must indeed be delicious. She splurged and bought a dozen for us.

Tropical produce was practically unknown north of Mexico, so most of us had never seen an avocado. When we tasted the pears for the first time, we were unprepared and perplexed. Indig- nantly, Mrs. Hanson exclaimed, "Dees pears are *not* sweet and juicy!" True,

On the next day my father took our guests to the Aquarium to see the awe- some 20-foot anaconda snake, which bore the same name as their hometown. They were impressed, but it was the alligator that captured their attention. When Mrs. Hanson saw the creature's rough green skin, she declared, "Now I see why!" The skin of an alligator, the shape of a pear.

That episode occurred about 70 years ago, and over time saltwater corrosion has caused serious damage, including cracked concrete, rusted metal bars, and deteriorating pipelines, to the Grande Dame of Museums. The Aquarium holds over 40 large freshwater and marine displays, containing as much as 6,000 gallons of water. The whole system is in such poor condition, however, that it could collapse during an earthquake, and we could lose our beloved fish!

Proposition C on the Nov. 7 ballot would provide the funds necessary to make structural improvements and replace the ancient water system. The new director, Robert Jenkins, who came to the Steinhart because of its reputation



Shark Eggs

Baby Sharks

Eels

for excellence, spoke to the museum docents last month, and we liked what we heard. He does not intend to do anything new, different, or extravagant with Prop. C funds. He intends to fix and improve the Aquarium, yet retain its basic character, including the sea horse ballustrade surrounding the alligator "swamp."

Just about everyone is in favor of saving the Aquarium, but it will take a two-thirds majority for the measure to pass. So we Noe Valleons need to come out in force on Nov. 7. There are 20,000 fish depending on us! □

Illustration by Florence Holub

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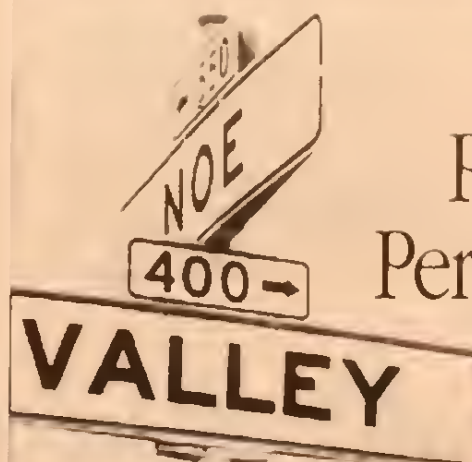
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Mailing Address: 225 Clipper St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Tuesday of month, Bethany Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., 7 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association
Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
Contact: Bruce Muncil, 864-7847
Mailing Address: 336 Cumberland St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

Duncan-Newburg Association
Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734, Janet Kennedy, 647-1844, or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association
Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938
Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium, 24th & Guerrero.

Friends of Noe Valley
Contact: Georgia Finnigan, 285-8016
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or Hilda Bernstein, 282-8232
Mailing Address: 3333 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Rick Hauptman, 647-0549
Mailing Address: 1595 Noe St., #6, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association
Contact: J. P. Gillen, 821-1515
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center
Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.
Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114
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Outer Noe Valley Merchants
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 284 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month, Just for You Too Cafe, 1793 Church St., 3 p.m.

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21st Street 4000 Block SAFE
Contact: Santiago Rodriguez
Mailing Address: 4014 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically.

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989
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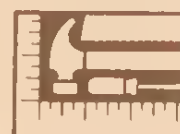
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Ready for Thanksgiving: Thanks to Grandma's garden on Jersey Street, 1-year-old Nick Zarikos has a couple of homegrown white pumpkins all ready for Turkey Day.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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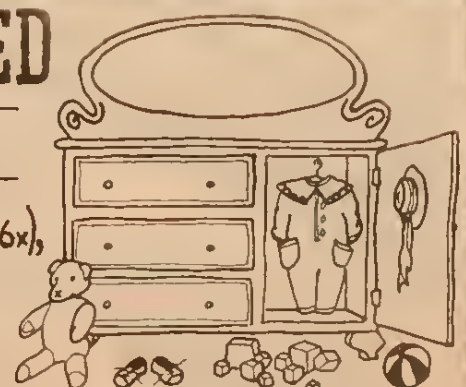


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MORE MOUTHS to feed

Jackson Dwight Karlenzig

On your last stroll down Vicksburg Street, you might have asked yourself, just who is that wildly innovative piano player who's moved into the 'hood? Now we know: it's 8-month-old Jackson Dwight Karlenzig.

"He actually hits a chord every now and then," says his dad, Warren Karlenzig, 32. "He'll play for half an hour, but most of the time it's pretty, well, avant-garde," Warren laughs. "He's got great rhythm, though."

Weighing in at 7 pounds, 6 ounces, Jackson was born on Feb. 18, 1995, 3:47 p.m., at California Pacific Medical Center.

"It was one of the very few sunny days last February," recalls his mom, Diana Karlenzig, 32. Confirms Warren, "It was 75 degrees, and I remember the sun just streaming through the window of the birthing room." During labor, while Diana put her Natural Resources—acquired skills to the test, Warren and neighbor/godmother Natasha Haugnes provided supportive guitar music.

It was a guitar, in fact, that brought Warren and Diana together on another sunny day in 1989. "I'd just moved back from Morocco and two years with the Peace Corps," recalls Diana. "Warren was sitting on the steps of his house, a big pink Victorian on Church Street, next to my new place, playing guitar and hanging out with a friend. I just thought, what a great community of neighbors, and joined them."

A sixth-generation Californian on his mom's side, Jackson is a genuine and natural outdoorsman.

"When he was three months old, we took him on a camping tour of the entire state," says Diana, "from Mount Shasta to L.A. and east to Nevada. We did the whole Sierra. He loved the trees and the campfire, but protested when we had to stay in motels on a few cold nights."

"Now we camp when it's 20 degrees," says Warren, "but not 20 below!"

The family regularly takes off for weekend camping trips to Point Reyes,

Mendocino, and Tomales Bay. When not roughing it, they head for the beach or go hike riding. Even when he's just taking it easy at home, Jackson spends plenty of time out in the fresh air.

"I take him up to the roof and show him the moon," says Diana. "We also have a great garden, and take lots of walks on 24th Street."

Exploring nature with their son is not a big stretch for two people working in environmental fields. Diana spends her days researching international nominees for the Goldman Foundation Environmental Prize, awarded annually to grassroots environmental activists. Warren works as a consultant advising Fortune 500 companies on environmental issues.

But the family also enjoys city amenities, and Jackson likes socializing in the neighborhood too. "He's very smiley and friendly," says Diana. "We call him a flirt."

Jackson's best huddy is 1-year-old neighbor Declan. However, he's still rating Noe Valley's restaurants.

"Eric's was his first restaurant—we took him there when he was a week old,"

says Mom. "The first four months he had a perfect restaurant record!"

Besides peekaboo and hide-and-seek, Jackson's favorite sport is the one where Dad throws him up in the air.

"I never thought being a dad would be so much fun, so many unexpected laughs and endless entertainment value," says Warren.

"When he flaps his arms, we call him Flappers," adds Diana. "He looks like he's trying to take off!"

These days Flappers is busy learning how to get around under his own power. "When people ask if he's crawling," says

Warren, "I answer, 'Yes. Backwards!'"

But hasn't innovation always been the hallmark of a true Californian? ☐

—Melanie Norden



Musician? Pilot? Environmental activist? Diana and Warren Karlenzig aren't sure what career path son Jackson will settle on, but "Flappers" will probably give them the signal soon.

Photo by Beverly Tharp



More Mouths to Feed wants to show off your newest family member. If you have welcomed a baby into the house or just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to *The Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait. ☐

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MORE BOOKS to READ

Librarians Roberta Greifer, Carol Small, and Cornelia Van Aken-Sanks invite you to check out the books available at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. (at Castro). Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m., and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. For information, call 695-5095.

New Books - Adult Fiction

- ☞ Lisa Alther fans will enjoy her latest novel, *Five Minutes in Heaven*, the story of a young woman's epic quest for love and sexual identity.
- ☞ *Night Magic*, by Tom Tryon, is the Faustian tale of an aspiring magician's initiation into the frightening world of real magic.
- ☞ Sir Arthur Conan Doyle confronts mystery and mysticism in the Wild West in *Six Messiahs*, a thriller by Mark Frost.
- ☞ *Louisa May Alcott Unmasked* is a complete collection of that author's gothic thrillers, assembled in the order of their original publication.

Adult Non-Fiction

- ☞ Anthropologist Timothy J. Krab reveals and examines the ancient secrets embraced by today's Aztec underworld in *A War of Witches*.
- ☞ *Kidshapes*, by Laura Walther Nathanson, discusses childhood obesity and gives parents a practical dietary plan promoting healthy growth.
- ☞ The ultimate doomsday hook, *The Last Three Minutes*, by physicist Paul Davies, explores what could happen if and when the universe comes to an end.
- ☞ *A Way Through the Wilderness*, by William C. Davis, tracks the settlement of the original southern frontier and describes the lifestyles of those who traveled the Natchez Trace.

Book Signing and Reading

- ☞ Author and Noe Valley resident Ruthanne Lum McCunn will present her new novel, *Wooden Fish Songs*, on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.

Book of the Month Club

- ☞ Newcomers are invited to join the Noe Valley Book Discussion Group, which will meet at the library on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m., to discuss a novel by Julia Alvarez, *In the Time of the Butterflies*.

Films at the Library

- ☞ The classic Valentino film *Son of the Sheik* plays Wednesday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.

New Books - Children's Fiction

- ☞ At last, the children are able to taste the delicious spice cake made by Pilgrim woman *Goody O'Grumpity*, described in the poem by Carol Ryrie Brink and illustrated by local artist Ashley Wolff. (Ages 3-6.)
- ☞ An overcooked pizza saves the day—and the lives of the entire McTavish family—in Margaret Mahy's *Rattlebang Picnic*. (4-7.)
- ☞ Why do the audiences always fall asleep when Zeke plays his harmonica? There is a perfectly good explanation in *Zeke Pippin* by William Steig. (Ages 4-7.)
- ☞ Even goblins and gremlins can't stop a friendly house spirit from protecting his human family in William Mayne's fantasy *Hob and the Goblins*. (Ages 8-11.)
- ☞ In *My Wartime Summers*, Noe Valley writer Jane Cutler shows how a soldier fighting in the war in Europe and a young teenager at home can change in the space of three years. (Ages 10-13.)
- ☞ In *Julie*, Jean George's sequel to Newbery Medal winner *Julie of the Wolves*, Julie spends time with her father Kapugen, gets to know her stepmother better, and continues to protect the wolves. (Ages 11 and up.)

Children's Non-Fiction

- ☞ In *Thanksgiving Fun: Great Things to Make and Do*, Ronne Randall provides many ideas for holiday crafts, recipes, decorations, and games. (Ages 6-10.)
- ☞ Kathryn Lasky portrays a person who truly loved asking questions, learning, and thinking creatively in *The Librarian Who Measured the Earth*. (Ages 6-9.)

October Programs for Kids

- ☞ *Lapsits* for infants and toddlers and their parents take place at 7 p.m., on Wednesdays, Nov. 1, 8, 15, and 29.
- ☞ *Preschool Story Time* starts at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Nov. 7, 21, and 28.
- ☞ *Films* for preschoolers: *Giant Turtles*, *Frog Goes to Dinner*, and *Happy Lion* will be shown Tuesday, Nov. 14, 10 and 11 a.m.

This month's "More Books to Read" list was written and compiled by librarians Carol Small and Cornelia Van Aken-Sanks.

Women's Writing Group

Sometimes the hardest thing about writing is getting yourself to do it. This 12-week workshop, beginning in January, will provide a positive and supportive environment to help make writing a pleasure. The group emphasizes compassion for ourselves as women and as writers. Through a variety of exercises, we'll learn to quell the critic within ourselves, and enjoy the freedom of self-expression.

Linda Gebroe is a freelance writer living in San Francisco. With 20 years' experience in professional communications — 8 as a self-employed writer — she brings creativity, humor and understanding to her work and yours. For more information, call (415) 695-1420.

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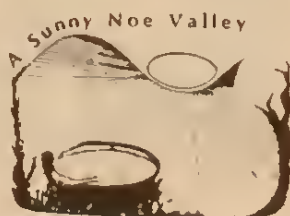
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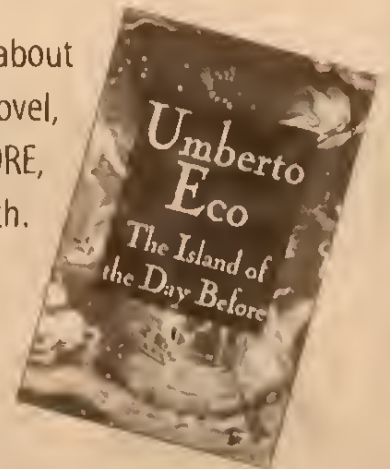
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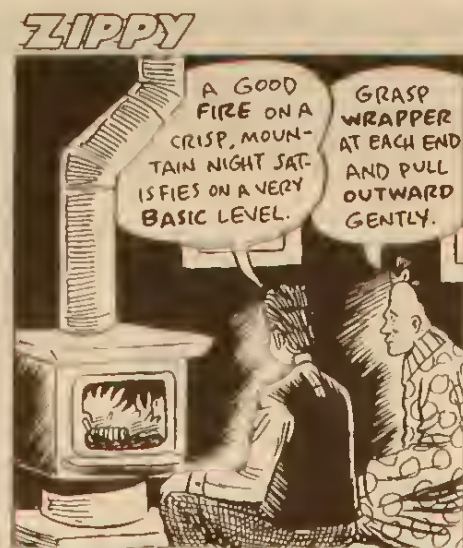
The Never Ending Story

By Mazook

THE SANCHEZ HILLTOP SAGA has become a soap opera for many of the neighbors around the 21st and Sanchez corner. Here's the latest installment in our Battle Mountain mini-series.

As you may recall from past columns (and the front page of last month's *Voice*), San Francisco developer Seamus McGee has been trying to get the city to let him build four three-story, six-bedroom million-dollar homes on an 18,000-square-foot piece of property now occupied by an old farmhouse and some fairly innocent trees and grass. But some feisty nearby residents, aka Neighbors to Save the Sanchez Hilltop, have thrown themselves directly in his path. Since last spring, they have been fighting tooth and nail to preserve the trees and views, as well as protect the hill from what they deem ostentatious overdevelopment.

In sort of a million-man march thing, they've sent out thousands of questionnaires, gathered hundreds of signatures on petitions, and picketed McGee and his property on numerous occasions. Group founder Monika Henschke says she's even received pledges of \$85,000 from Neighbors who'd like to buy the parcel and turn it into a park or bird sanctuary. More than a hundred protesters arrived at City Hall last month (wearing green hats



sporting the group's logo no less!).

Meanwhile, McGee and his two sons, who are involved in the construction end of the project, have held several open houses, made their pitch to the neighborhood associations, and had their architects tweak and retweak the plans. "I've spent five weekends up there, and have gotten 715 people to sign my petition of support, and another 214 letters [in favor]," he says.

After they clashed at a September Planning Commission hearing, the developer and Neighbors were instructed to go back to the drawing board and try to work out a compromise. But at its next meeting, on Oct. 19, the Planning Commission voted 4-2 to accept the developer's plans, with relatively minor adjustments.

Well guess what? The Neighbors aren't giving up. Monika says the group will lay its case before the Board of Permit Appeals when McGee files for his permits. "And then we can go to Superior Court from there if we have to."

She adds that the fundraising effort has also begun in earnest. If the Neighbors can buy the property, she says, they'll fix up the old house and create a "nature area

for children and a quiet sanctuary vista point for contemplation." But to accomplish this feat, Monika points out, they will need to tap into the city's \$4 million Open Space Fund.

McGee responds that at this stage he's unlikely to entertain any notions of selling. "They would have to come up with a hell of a price, because I've got so much time and money invested in this now."

He also indicated that he'd talked to Rec and Park, and that they told him the Open Space money would not be available until 1996, if at all.

A little bird tells me this squabbling could continue indefinitely. I think I'll go fly a kite on Kite Hill.

CITY PLANNING has also given the green light to developer Joe Cassidy to demolish the old Second Spanish Baptist Church on 24th Street and construct a four-story shop and apartment complex. (For details, see this month's *Friends of Noe Valley* story, page 15.)

The property sits between Bell and Good News, both of which had unsuccessfully appealed the Planning Department's "negative declaration" (saying the environmental impact would be minimal).

After receiving the good news, Cassidy says he'll get the rest of his permits and start the wrecking ball rolling next spring.

With two buildings to tear down and 19 condos and four stores to put up, you can bet there will be significant truck and auto impact in Downtown Noe Valley. Yikes for bikes, too.

PURPLE PERMIT PROSE: Wannabe restaurant owners Gary Logan and Cliff Gray are still grinding their teeth over the fate of That Blue Place, an Italian eatery they'd hoped to open this fall at the cor-

ner of Sanchez and Duncan.

As reported in our news pages last month, nearby residents have banded together under the acronym SOS (Save Our Sanchez) and chomped on every possible permit the restaurant may or may not have been handed. SOS caused the now Black and Blue Place to withdraw its request for outdoor seating, and even prevailed upon the city to halt construction of the cafe when it was about 75 percent complete. (Zoning Administrator Robert Passmore asked the city's Building Department to issue the stop-work order, saying it might have made a booboo in allowing the cafe to use space at the back of the storefront formerly zoned for residential use.)

Last month, the ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) held a public hearing at Upper Noe Rec Center to listen to neighbors' objections to the restaurant's application for a beer and wine license. The event drew over 50 people, an equal number from both sides, witnesses say.

A slight problem arose when those in favor of the restaurant stood up to speak, however. Apparently, the ABC hearing officer only wanted to listen to objectors, since it routinely issues these licenses to bona fide eating places.

Still in search of a forum, Gary and Cliff have hired an attorney. "We have been on hold since the September 12 stop-work order was issued by the zoning administrator, and I think the city made a big mistake," says Cliff. "We submitted and got permits on three sets of plans, the most recent being in July of 1995, and there were no objections at that time."

Considering the way City Planning has been dysfunctioning lately, our restaurateurs could be waiting for a Blue Moon.

JUST FOR FUN, 24th Street's thriving

Continued Next Page



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RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

gift and stationery emporium, is expanding into the space occupied by Pacific Mortgage Guarantee next door (on the Noe Street side). Pacific Mortgage will maintain its Noe Valley presence with a small office up front, but has moved some operations to 1340 Market St., over the hill in Eureka Valley.

Fun co-owners David Eiland and Robert Ramsey say the shop will gain more than 1,300 square feet of floor space. And they're sure the store's customers will appreciate an end to the gridlock.

Says David, "The fixtures and aisles are going to be a lot more stroller-friendly," once the store remodeling is finished over the next few months.

David adds that the inventory will stay pretty much the same, "but we'll expand our wood toys, kits, and crafts items, and add more paper and stationery supplies, and everything will be better displayed."

The expansion will mean more ceiling space too, and as all you collectors know, Just for Fun has become the Sistine Chapel of Christmas tree decorations. Last year the store sold 120,000 glass ornaments alone, says Robert. "This year we have around 140,000 on hand and plan to hang over 100,000 of them in the beginning of November." It's a holiday display you shouldn't miss.



WELCOME BACK to Elisa's Health Spa, which was closed for exactly one year for renovations. "We didn't plan it that way," says proprietor Elisa Ining, "but the construction took longer than I ever dreamed, and with all the inspections, it turned into a nightmare."

The spa (24th near Star Magic) now has brand-new outdoor hot tubs with sauna, an indoor sauna, and steam sauna. It held a grand reopening last month, featuring "hore" d'oeuvres, the sign said. I recommend the tubs as a great place for all our neighbors and developers to unchill out.

So long, Meat Market. Hello, Miss Millie's. Yes, the Meat Market Coffeehouse, a 24th Street institution since 1971, has a new owner and a new name. Says proprietor Gary Rizzo, Miss Millie's will be more along the lines of a coffee shop than a coffeehouse, and will serve mostly sandwiches. The remodeling should be moving ahead any day now.



Despite last month's approval by City Planning of construction plans for four luxury homes at 21st and Sanchez, Neighbors to Save Sanchez Hilltop are still waging their campaign to block the development and preserve the land as open space. Photo by Beverly Thorp

Meanwhile, the Java Joint over on Dolores at Valley Street, also under new management, has started hosting live entertainment.

New owners Janice and Mazin Nasser had their inaugural "Night of the Rising Stars" in September, featuring musical performances by Rebecca Hoots, Clem Off, and Sunrise. Says Janice, "We are now going to open the mike the first Wednesday of every month from 7 to 10 p.m., and have acoustic guitar, poetry readings, and comedy."

The first Wednesday of November is today, Nov. 1 (if you got your paper hot off the presses), so you might want to hightail it over to the Joint, or give her a call at 824-5524 to be in the lineup for Wednesday, Dec. 6. Janice would also like to remind her customers that it's best to arrive early unless you enjoy standing-room-only, because the Java Joint seats butt 18 (no bun intended).



SPEAKING OF MUSIC: Everyone is encouraged to attend this year's benefit for the Noe Valley Nursery School, which will take place at the Rover's Inn (24th and Castro) on Saturday, Dec. 2.

The party will feature the real deal in

traditional Irish music, a group called the Coirm Cheoil. Loosely translated from the Gaelic, it means singing and dancing.

The music is being sponsored by the Guinness Group of Dublin, Ireland, and prizes donated by Noe Valley merchants will be raffled off during the course of the evening.

Anyway, the singing and dancing will start at 8 p.m. and continue until closing time. Tickets are five bucks each and will be available in advance from any parent you might meet in front of the nursery school at 1021 Sanchez St. (the Noe Val-

ley Ministry). You can also pay at the door, of course.

All proceeds will fund the activities of the nursery school, which has been successfully bringing neighborhood families together for shared parenting for the past 27 years.

So join the party, do an Irish jig, and have a few snacks and libations for a good cause. (You don't have to be present to win the raffle prizes, though.)

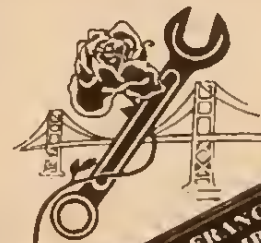
Before I go, I want to remind you all to go to the polls Nov. 7. I'll have the local results for you in December. □

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Saturday, Nov. 11—9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dominican Guild Christmas Boutique. ICA Auditorium, 24th and Guerrero streets, San Francisco. Benefit Dominican Sisters.

How to Find the Best Child Care. Must-see video for parents looking for childcare or preschool. Hear from experts. \$23.95 plus \$4 S & H. Charge by phone: 1-800-859-5105.

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Carpentry and Home Improvements. Reasonable rates. Excellent references. Jeffrey, 923-1927.

Women in Their 50s and 60s: The difficulty you're having meeting men your age is due to the fact they're either pursuing men or younger women, are married, lethargic, or are deceased! Workshops are opening for you to join, free of charge, to discuss these issues and what you can do about it! 668-8310.

Quality Carpentry. Decks, stairs, doors, windows. Free estimate. Call Ian at 759-1315 (office) or 978-6510 (beeper).

Quality Tile Work. Bathrooms, kitchens, entryway. Patio tile, marble, slate. Free estimate. Call 759-1315 (office) or 978-6510 (beeper).

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Architect. Michael Mullin. 626-1190.

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Your Condo for Sale? Sunset resident seeks escape from the fog! Ready to purchase Noe condo (or house), prefer an older building, fixer-upper okay, parking a must. I am bank pre-approved for \$250K-range sale price. Please call soon, as I can't take another foggy summer! Mark, 681-1822.

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New Improved Noe's Nest Bed and Breakfast. Unit A: private entrance, private bath, kitchenette, queen bed. Cute and cozy. Unit B: view, private bath, deck, fireplace, hot tub, queen bed. Unit C: ultra-view, private bath, steam room, parlor, king bed, fireplace, and deck. All with cable and VCR. Masseuse and day care available. Contact Sheila, 821-0751.

Women's Support Group meets weekly in Noe Valley. Come join other women working to improve relationships and communication, overcome self-defeating patterns, increase self-esteem, and achieve goals. Individual sessions also available. Maire Farrington, M.F.C.C. #24893. (415) 282-5695.

Motherhood—Is It for Me? Ambivalence can be immobilizing. One-day workshops and support groups for women exploring the many feelings associated with this choice. Call for brochure. Denise Carlini, M.F.C.C. Ann Davidman, M.F.C.C. registered intern #IMF20110. Supervisor: K. Glaser, M.F.C.C. #18869. 985-7464.

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Group Therapy for Women with eating disorders. Food does not have to be the most important thing in your life. Overeating, throwing up, not eating are not as impossible to overcome as they may seem. We now have openings in our women's group. You may find it helpful to relate to others who are working to gain control of their lives and their eating. The group will meet Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The fee is \$25 per week. For further information call Dr. Pat Sax. 661-7158.

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Fight Back—Don't Be a Victim. Your lawyer fights for you—accidents, injuries, evictions, contracts, more. Herman Kalfen, Esq. 929-1999 (24 hours).

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Women's Writers Group meets monthly in Noe Valley to provide support for challenges of writing and the creative process, including: writer's block, inner critic, self-disclosure, failure/success issues, isolation. Individual consultation also available. Maire Farrington, M.F.C.C. #24893. (415) 282-5965.

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For Rent: Spacious, bright Noe Valley flat. Three bedrooms, two baths, eat-in kitchen with all amenities, dining room, living room with fireplace. Views. \$1,500 per month including utilities. 695-9571.

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Poetry Wanted: *The Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Payment upon publication. Send submission (typed, please), plus name, address, and phone, to *The Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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Garage for Rent. Sanchez near Jersey Street. \$150/month. 648-8614.

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Attractive Psychotherapy Office, prime Noe Valley location. Suitable for families or groups. Shared waiting area, kitchen, and garden. Cleaning service and utilities included. Full-time lease or rent by the day. Call (415) 285-2183.

Office Space Wanted for Rosen Method bodyworker, Tuesday afternoons/evenings. Carol Watson, 488-0738.

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The Next Voice will be the December 1995/January 1996 issue, arriving in Downtown Noe Valley on or before Wednesday, Dec. 6. To place a class ad, mail your ad copy and a check (made payable to *The Noe Valley Voice*) so that we receive it by Nov. 15. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Sorry, but we are unable to accept phone orders.

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THE LAST PAGE

Essay

A Daring Old Mom Tries the Flying Trapeze

Paula Tevis

I AM A REASONABLY FIT 39 1/2-year-old woman, but not the kind of person you'd invite to go hang gliding, or backpacking in the Mojave Desert, or even skinny-dipping. Actually, my lifelong ambition has been to avoid anything squirmy, damp, dangerous, or uncomfortable.

I suppose this classifies me as a wimp. Yet wimphood is not something I flaunt. Rather, using a combination of charm and stealth, I slink toward the nearest exit whenever some thrill seeker proposes, say, spelunking.

Under most circumstances, nobody ever notices I've disappeared, so I've been fairly successful staying out of trouble. Then I became a mother, and two pairs of inquiring eyes quickly turned me into a public figure.

It wasn't long after surviving labor that I realized rearing children is no job for a sissy. In order to succeed, I had to be smarter, stronger, and braver than my kids. I needed to be a model of achievement and fortitude. Otherwise, they'd walk all over me. More importantly, how could I reasonably expect my female offspring to face this callous and callused world if their mother made a practice of avoiding garden pests, physical exertion, exotic foods, and anything requiring a tent? Obviously, I couldn't. I had to become the sort of mom a kid could look up to.

In my quest to become the ideal mother, I squared my shoulders and forced myself to do the things my children did so easily and fearlessly. I picked up snails and worms with my bare hands, pretended to enjoy airplane flights, and briefly—very briefly—joined their gymnastics club.

Against my better judgment I even acquiesced when my husband, Mark, decided to buy a 20-year-old Volkswagen van so we could experience the great outdoors. Our enthusiasm for car-camping died quickly, as did the camper, but throughout these trying times I continued to appear relaxed despite my natural inclinations. Unfortunately, the kids didn't regard my efforts as praiseworthy. They just complained about missing the van.

Shortly thereafter, my husband decided to bid on a family trapeze class donated to our kids' school auction.

"Sounds like fun, huh?" he said. "I bet the girls would just love it, wouldn't you?"

I was shocked into silence. As a youngster, I'd never entertained a single thought of hightailing it out of town with Ringling Brothers Circus. Nowadays I'm so stiff the only big-top career I'd be suited for is knife-thrower's assistant (i.e., target). But here was the opportunity to show the girls what their mom was truly made of.

I smiled weakly at my spouse and told him to go ahead. Naturally, no one outbid us.

We walked into the San Francisco School of Circus Arts on Frederick Street late one Saturday morning. The cavernous gymnasium was dominated by a huge net underneath two flying trapezes. My little girls ran over to a third, low-hanging bar to warm up, their years in gymnastics obviously paying off.

My husband, who only intermittently hits the health club, eagerly swung his legs over the bar and managed an upside-down sit-up.

Then it was my turn. With a wily instructor lifting me, my sweaty palms gripped the bar. I slipped. I climbed back up and held on with more will than strength. I tried to get my legs to move perpendicular to my body, but they wouldn't cooper-

ate. My stomach muscles contracted vainly. Mind over matter, I thought. Mind over matter. Matter won. I couldn't get my feet close to anything but my ankles.

With the warmup behind us, Mark and our daughters lined up with the regular classgoers. A teacher hooked a safety belt around one lithe student, who then climbed a rope ladder up to a platform three stories above the net.

Suddenly I noticed that Lili, my 6-year-old, was making her way up as well. She is a tiny child, strong but maddeningly inattentive. I started to shake in fear for her life, safety belt or no safety belt. My thoughts flashed to a story my grandmother used to tell. She was sitting in the sun by the country club pool one day when she spied a girl jumping off the high diving board. She couldn't imagine who would be foolish enough to do such a thing. Then she realized it was her own daughter!

NOW I UNDERSTOOD how Grandma felt. Up on the platform, a nonchalant fellow wrapped one arm about Lili, lifted her off the platform, and grabbed the trapeze with his free hand. He gave it to her. Then, he let her go. She soared over and back, grinning, giggling. Below her, another instructor yelled directions in a thick foreign accent. Somehow, she understood him. She bounced into the net and tumbled over the side, triumphant.

Then Mark started up the ladder. Madeleine, our 7-year-old, decided she was scared, providing me with another opportunity to exhibit true grit.

"It looks like fun and it's perfectly

safe," I lied. "And I'll be right behind you."

Mark took to the trapeze like the young man of legend. Then Madeleine, who had been cowering next to me like an honest representation of my side of the family, rose up and flew beautifully over the net, latching her legs over the bar and hugging her knees to her chest to somersault off.

**In my quest to become
the ideal mother,
I forced myself to do the
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I picked up snails
and worms with my
bare hands, pretended
to enjoy airplane
flights, and briefly—very
briefly—joined their
gymnastics club.**

There was no escaping now. Begrudgingly, but with a sense of duty and a safety belt tight around my hips, I started my ascent. The rungs narrowed as I climbed, the rope scratched my arms. I grappled my way up to the platform, which seemed too frail and small to hold both me and the burly instructor.

I faced him and tossed my head to one side. "You won't let go, will you?" I whined beguilingly.

"Listen carefully and jump when I tell you," he grunted. He put his arm around my waist and caught the trapeze. "Hold it," he cried. I put my hands on opposite ends of the bar. "No, no. Put your hands together. Together."

Gingerly, I moved them closer to the center. My toes clung to the platform edge as I bent into the abyss. I could feel his arm, ever so slightly, releasing me.

"Jump!" he yelled. There seemed little choice. Soaring through the air, I couldn't concentrate on either my fear or on the noise in the gym, a combination of low murmuring from students and parents in the room and a guy yelling at me from below.

At some point, as the trapeze curved up, I knew my legs were supposed to lift over my head onto the bar. Back and forth I traveled, struggling to get my legs over, laughing, determined, but ultimately defeated. Someone shouted at me to drop. I fell into the net, exhilarated, embarrassed, and grateful to be intact. I climbed down, charmingly made my way into a corner, and spent the next 90 minutes watching my kids and Mark climb up, work on routines, and tumble down. The next day, and for days after that, I felt as if a minivan had given me a tummy tuck.

SINCE THEN, the urge to show my kids precisely how intrepid their mom is has diminished. I've come to the conclusion that there's a fine line between courage and foolhardiness, and I'd rather teach my kids the difference between the two with my feet on the ground. But in the end, I will be pleased if my girls think of their mom as a fearless woman. Tough yet sensible, and behind them all the way as they soar out into the great beyond. ♦

Paula Tevis is an 11-year resident of Glen Park. She writes in her spare time—that is, when she's not being a model mom to her two daughters, now 7 and 8 years old. Her articles and stories have appeared in Parenting and Family Fun magazines.

Essay

The View from Douglass Park

Kitty Costello

Toward the east a sheer tumble of rocks drops 100 feet or more to the flat playing fields below. No houses are built here. It is too rough, too prone to rock slides, formed no doubt by the action of numerous earthquakes. And so it is a park instead, set aside in silent acknowledgement of the earth's power, right here in the middle of the city, this jumble of houses and asphalt and cement reaching east and west to the bay and the ocean. All around, streets and buildings jut up every which way at impossible angles, up and down over the massive mounds of rumpled and slumping earth beneath.

To the west is Twin Peaks. It has taken many years of living in this city for me to begin to recognize the actual shape of these two peaks nestled up high above Eureka Valley. Sutro Tower, the gigantic radio transmitter, had become Twin Peaks in my mind instead. With its three sharp spires piercing the sky, its red and white stripes peeking out, then hiding, in passing fog, it had dominated my whole perception of the skyline.

Now I see the two mounds of earth for what they are beneath the weight of the tower and the clamor of houses mounting higher and higher up their steep sides. I can turn the clock backward in my mind, feel the original rolling slopes, erase the scarring of the road wrapped around the two mounds, the sheer cuts which have destroyed the smooth curve of each hillside. I envision them whole instead.

Los Pechos de la Choca, the Spanish called them—breasts of the Indian girl—the source of Arroyo de los Dolores, Dolores Creek, which once flowed east down the hillsides, past the mission to Laguna de Manantial, the lagoon that once filled the heart of the city, home to myriad waterfowl.

This is the valley I see stretched out before me now. The waterfowl are gone, but when the ground here shakes, houses have been swallowed by Earth, eager to reclaim her waterways.

Beneath me the hard gray rock is humming. My spine is a string tuning the vibration. Low, lower. Slow, like whale music or iceberg songs. I ride this earth from up here in my stone saddle. I feel its true rhythm pulsing beneath the playground cries, the sirens, the swoosh and roar of a thousand car engines from the valley below.

Here old pine trees wrap and coil their roots down into the dark, clenching the stone below, clutching the hillside to itself, a contract beyond governance by the likes of my species.

Kitty Costello is a writer, editor, and counselor living on Day Street.

Last But Not Least: The Noe Valley Voice invites readers to submit first-person essays or fiction for possible publication on our last page. Please mail your manuscript, which should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1,500 words, to The Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to send a phone number. Thanks. —The Eds.